

## Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراي

## S. Arabia calls emergency OPEC talks

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia called Thursday for an emergency conference of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to discuss how to deal with the market situation in light of the Iraq-Kuwait crisis. Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said that the kingdom, along with other unidentified members of the group, "have asked for an immediate OPEC meeting to discuss a unified decision on dealing with the crisis of the market." The minister, in a short official statement, also denied that the kingdom had notified any of its customers of any cutbacks in oil supply for the month of September. Earlier in the day, Tokyo reports said Saudi Arabia had notified U.S., European and Japanese oil companies of a 15-20 per cent cutback in its oil supply in September. The reports were attributed to the Japanese Foreign Ministry. In Baghdad, meanwhile, the Iraqi government accused the United States of ignoring its own strict policing of the economic sanctions against Iraq.

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Qatar reports  
Jordanian journalist

AMMAN (J.T.) — Qatar deported Jordanian journalist Saleh Zaitoun, who worked as the political editor of Qatari paper Al Raya and Palestine National Council member. Saleh Al Barghouthi, both men arrived in Amman Monday. Zaitoun told the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i that he knew nothing about the causes for such a measure and that he had been working for over 15 years in the field of journalism. The Qatari authorities had earlier ordered the deportation of Palestinian Sheikh Isma'il Al Kilani, who worked as imam of Al 'Usaini Mosque in Qatar, and Palestinian citizen Muhammad Al Aydi who worked as a teacher at the Qatari Ministry of Education.

U.S. sending  
'Stealth' to Gulf

WASHINGTON (R) — The Defense Department has said the air force will deploy highly sophisticated "Stealth" fighters to the Middle East as part of a major buildup of U.S. forces in the Gulf crisis. The brief announcement did not say how many of the \$106 million radar-avoiding aircraft would be sent to the region or where they would be based.

## Iraq frees prisoners

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has ordered the immediate release of prisoners jailed for petty crimes, Baghdad Television reported. It said those not covered by the amnesty include spies, drug traffickers, convicted murderers, those belonging to (foreign) agent movements or convicted of plotting against the regime. The announcement did not say how many people would be freed.

Indian Muslims  
burn U.S. flag

NEW DELHI (R) — About 100 Indian Muslim students burned American flags and shouted slogans in front of the U.S. embassy in New Delhi Thursday demanding a withdrawal of Western forces from the Gulf.

Syria congratulates  
Iran on peace

NICOSIA (R) — Syria, which backed Iran in its eight-year war with Iraq, congratulated Tehran Thursday over Baghdad's peace proposal accepting Iran's peace terms. The Iranian news agency IRNA said Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam met President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and "congratulated the accomplishment of the Iranian nation's righteous demands." IRNA said Khaddam declared Syria's readiness to take a joint stance with Iran over the crisis sparked by Iraq's seizure of Kuwait Aug. 2. Khaddam, who arrived in Tehran Wednesday with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharra, also handed Rafsanjani a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, IRNA added.

Solaz: War  
may be necessary

TEL AVIV (AP) — A visiting member of the American House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee warned Thursday that the United States and other countries may resort to war if economic sanctions against Iraq fail. Israel's defense minister Moshe Arens also estimated that such an outcome of the Gulf crisis was possible. Stephen J. Solaz, a New York Democrat, vowed Thursday "to do whatever we need to do in order to make sure that Kuwait once again becomes an independent country and that Saddam Hussein is not in a position to enjoy the fruits of his annexation" of Kuwait. Speaking on Israel Radio, Solaz said the failure of economic blockade would give Iraq enormous benefits. "It would put (Iraq) in a position through the intimidation of the other Gulf countries where (it) could single-handedly determine the price and production levels of oil which, in turn, would give (it) a stranglehold on the economy of the rest of the world. It would also instantaneously legitimize it throughout the Arab World," Solaz said.

King, Bush meet for 2½  
hours; no progress reported

'I suppose one has to have hope,' King says

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein reported no progress Thursday in his attempt to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis after talks with U.S. President George Bush. The King said after meeting Bush for two and a half hours that he did not deliver any proposal from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for resolving the crisis. Nor did he give any indication of progress towards a diplomatic solution. "I've tried my utmost to see what could be done in an Arab context, and I'll continue to do my best to bring a resolution to this problem," he told reporters. Asked if he still had any reason for hope, the King said: "I suppose one has to have hope. Without hope you can't get anywhere."

Saddam lashes at Bush, says  
president misleading U.S.

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Thursday accused U.S. President George Bush of trying to discredit him by labelling him a liar — and accused Bush of misleading the American people in the Gulf crisis. "You, president of the United States, have chosen to be a liar," Saddam said. "You have lied to your people."

Iraq asks Americans, Britons  
to gather at hotels

AMMAN (AP) — Iraqi military authorities in Kuwait instructed all Americans and Britons to assemble at hotels in the emirate Thursday. U.S. officials called the order unjustified. Britain condemned it as "grave and sinister." "What we fear is that they will be interned somewhere, most likely in Iraq," Britain's Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave said in London. The U.S. State Department said the 2,500 Americans in Kuwait were given two hours to move to a hotel to protect them against "unspecified threats." The International Hotel, where the Americans were told to gather, is opposite the U.S. embassy in Kuwait City. Initially, the Iraqi authorities told the U.S. ambassador in Kuwait, Nathaniel Howell, that the Americans should go to central points, such as hotels. "But then it became clear they meant the Kuwaiti International," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in Washington. Howell protested the order as unjustified and impractical. Britain, whose 4,000 nationals in Kuwait were ordered to go to the Regency Hotel, has contacted its European Community partners and other allies to see if similar demands had been made on other foreign communities in Kuwait.

Iraqi withdrawal from  
Iran to take five days

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq's withdrawal of troops from Iranian territory will take five days when it starts on Friday, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. It said President Saddam Hussein chaired a meeting of the general command of the armed forces Thursday morning to decide the withdrawal period. The meeting was attended by six of Iraq's most powerful leaders. Saddam announced Wednesday that Iraq was agreeing to all Iran's conditions for a peace treaty with Iran. He said the aim of the peace bid was to free his entire million-strong army to confront Western forces and his official press appealed to Iran to join Iraq in a holy war against "crusader pollution." Apart from withdrawing from the remaining Iranian territory it holds, Iraq will send home 30,000 Iranian prisoners of war, also starting Friday, and recognise the 1975 Algiers agreement defining the border with Iran. Saddam ripped up the Algiers agreement before the war began in 1980. Saddam's concessions to Iran followed an uncompromising message from Tehran which told him he could not hope to gain in negotiations what he failed to win in the eight-year Gulf war, Iran disclosed Thursday.

The King described his talks with Bush as frank, open and candid, diplomatic language that typically signals disagreement. He called Bush "an old friend of mine." "I did not bring any message. I am not talking on behalf of anyone in the area," the King told reporters. The King, who arrived from Washington at about noon (1600 GMT) for the meeting, signalled that he was not yet prepared to honour an American request to close the port of Aqaba to Iraqi commerce. "I'm not saying we have altered our position in this regard," he said. He said his government was seeking clarification from the United Nations on what was required under international sanctions against Iraq for its Aug. 2

House  
reviews  
contingency  
measures

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament met in a closed session Wednesday and discussed Jordan's economic situation and the impact of sanctions against Iraq on the national economy as well as measures to be adopted in the event of hostilities breaking out in the Gulf, deputies said Thursday. "We discussed ways and means to prepare the population for the worst scenario," said one deputy who attended the session. "We also asked ministers to brief us on the available food supplies in Jordan as well as on steps to be taken if the 'civilised' world blocks the port of Aqaba to punish us for being against foreign intervention in the region," he added. He spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

This version of the almost four-hour meeting of the House was confirmed by several other deputies, all of whom insisted on anonymity in line with parliamentary regulations which prevent members of the House from revealing deliberations of closed-door sessions. However, none of the deputies was willing to go to any extent to detailing the discussions that took place Wednesday. The deputies who spoke to the Jordan Times Thursday categorically denied reports that the House had adopted a resolution reportedly stating that Parliament would oppose any move by the government to enforce international sanctions against Iraq. "I'd say that it was only an exchange of views during which most deputies spoke out against implementing anti-Iraqi sanctions, and that such sanctions are detrimental to Jordan's national interests," said a deputy. "There was no resolution or vote."

According to another deputy, "the closed session was an open and frank discussion between members of Parliament and members of the Cabinet of what options were open to Jordan and what measures could be taken to protect our economy." Parliamentarians also said that deputies asked ministers to brief them of the availability of food supplies and the status of the civil defence training which was ordered by Royal directives earlier in the week. "The mood is we have to prepare ourselves for the worst," one deputy said. "We are not rich and not powerful; but the Jordanians, the government and the people are sticking to their principles in this crisis and are trying to prepare themselves for hard times ahead," he added.

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Gulf crisis cannot be seen in  
isolation, Regent tells EC

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday warned against tackling the Gulf crisis in separation from other problems in the Middle East and reaffirmed Jordan's determination to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf conflict, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The Regent was speaking at a meeting with a visiting delegation from the European Community (EC) including Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis, Irish Foreign Minister Gerald Collins and Luxembourg Foreign Minister Secretary of State Georges Woffart, Petra reported. It said the Regent briefed the EC delegation on the Jordanian position vis-à-vis the Gulf crisis and the economic impact on the Jordanian economy if the Kingdom was to implement international sanctions on Iraq for its takeover of Kuwait. Prince Hassan warned against "actions that will lead to military confrontation and said the inevitable result will be then more suffering and radicalism all over the region."

EC sees room for diplomacy,  
insists on U.N. resolutions

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

of Ministers — discussed four key points with the Crown Prince. These, he said, were:

- The EC position on the Gulf crisis;
- Means to implement the U.N. resolution, and the possible impact of anti-Iraq sanctions on Jordan's economy;
- EC participation in compensation for countries whose economies will be adversely affected by the sanctions; and
- Means to arrive at a diplomatic/political solution to the Gulf crisis.

De Michelis, describing the EC team's talks in Amman as "deep, useful and constructive," said, "we understood the difficult position (of) Jordan" in the context of the sanctions, and that the EC considers "implementation of the embargo absolutely necessary ... and we are ready to give full political and economic support to Jordan in this direction."

The Italian foreign minister refused to be drawn into answering a direct question whether Jordan had told the EC that the Kingdom would impose sanctions against Iraq if the community undertook to compensate it. He would only say that "Jordan has said that it will abide by the Security Council resolutions."

He said Jordan had submitted a "comprehensive" memorandum outlining the repercussions on its economy of sanctions against Iraq, the Kingdom's main trade partner, accounting for almost 40 per cent of exports in 1989. The EC might participate in any aid package to Jordan decided under article 50 of the United Nations charter which provides for possible assistance to countries whose economies could be hit by mandatory sanctions approved by the world

Sharp decline in  
Aqaba shipping

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AQABA — Amid growing apprehension that this Red Sea port could be the target of what the U.S. describes as "quarantine" but in effect could be a naval blockade against Iraqi exports and imports shipping executives here are reporting a sizeable decline in business since the Gulf crisis erupted Aug. 2. Two ships docked at the port Thursday, raising to 15 the total number of vessels berthed, but officials said once the vessels were unloaded and left, port activities would come down to a trickle since the bulk of facilities here is designed to cater to Iraqi exports and imports, which could come to a standstill if the U.S.-led "interdiction" plan is implemented in full. The rate of ships docked at the harbour has declined drastically from an average of 35 ships a day to 15, most of which had arrived prior to the Kuwaiti crisis. A key to the success of the U.S.-led campaign to impose a blockade against Iraq, this tiny southern town has come under heavy pressures, fuelling frustration and anger against Washington. "How dare Washington ask us to stop sending food supplies and medicine while at the same time it expects Jordan to maintain its borders open with Iraq to facilitate the evacuation of West-

European dialogue and the necessity to enhance cooperation and relations between the countries in the region and the EC states. The minister referred to the EC's keenness and readiness to help in solving the economic problem facing Jordan. The meeting was attended by Minister of Information and Acting Foreign Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin, Minister of Industry and Trade Ziad Fariz, Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah, the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, the foreign ministry secretary general and Jordan's ambassador to Belgium and the EC and the Italian and the Spanish ambassador in Amman and the EC's charge d'affaires in Amman.

body. De Michelis said that while the EC supported the American decision to deploy in Saudi Arabia to protect the Kingdom against a perceived Iraqi threat of invasion, the community also believed that any kind of naval blockade to enforce the international sanctions against Iraq should be done strictly under the umbrella of the United Nations. U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Thursday that military force by any country to enforce U.N. sanctions on Iraq would be a breach of the U.N. charter, as long as the Security Council did not approve the use of force. "Any intervention, whatever the country, would not be in accordance with either the letter or the spirit of the United Nations charter," Perez de Cuellar told a news conference in Lima, Peru. He was responding to a question as to whether the United States would be overstepping the bounds of the sanctions if it used military might to enforce them. Perez de Cuellar said it would be up to the Security Council to decide when and if any force should be used to back sanctions on Iraq. De Michelis said the EC had sought Jordanian help to secure Iraqi permission for the estimated 7,000 EC nationals stranded in Kuwait and Iraq to leave. He also appeared to be issuing a veiled warning to Baghdad by saying that Iraq was aggravating the matter by keeping thousands of EC citizens in the country. "We have asked Jordan to possibly help us in this direction and tell the Iraqis it will be a grave mistake, with negative consequences, not to understand the necessity to comply with

Palestinians  
continue  
pro-Iraq  
rallies

NABLUS, occupied West Bank (AP) — Israeli troops fired tear gas and rubber bullets Thursday to disperse hundreds of Palestinians who marched through Nablus in support of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. "We are with you until victory," the demonstrators chanted. The marchers, some masked and armed with knives and pistols, carried Iraqi and Palestinian flags and posters showing Saddam embracing Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. The activists called on bystanders to join the march through Nablus' central market and the parade swelled from 300 to about 1,000. The pro-Saddam rally in Nablus was one of the largest reported in the occupied territories this week. Hundreds participated in earlier demonstrations in Nablus and nearby towns and refugee camps. Demonstrators Thursday sharply attacked Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd for cooperating with the United States against Iraq. "You, Mubarak are the rag of the Americans," one marcher shouted through a megaphone.

## 'Hostages to be freed by end of '90'

BEIRUT (AP) — The leftist Beirut newspaper Al Safir said Thursday all 14 Western hostages held in Lebanon, including six Americans, will be freed by the end of the year. In a front-page report, the respected newspaper quoted well informed diplomatic sources as saying "secret contacts... involving the concerned capitals, particularly Tehran," were underway to resolve the issue. Most of the captives are believed held by extremists operating under the umbrella of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah. The report quoted the unnamed sources as saying they "expect positive developments in the coming few days related to the fate of the Western hostages held in Lebanon." The issue of the hostages, as a result of the developments in the Gulf region, has been put on a very hot burner. The hostage-takers have made various demands for the release of prisoners held by Israel in South Lebanon, and convicted extremists jailed in Kuwait and Western capitals. Israel has refused to free hundreds of inmates held on suspicion of involvement in attacks against Israeli troops in South Lebanon.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams



# Peace with Iran frees more than 30 army divisions

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq said Thursday that peace with Iran would free more than 30 army divisions to confront U.S.-led forces in Saudi Arabia and appealed to Iranians to join a holy war against "crusader pollution."

It also warned foreign pilots not to expect mercy if they were shot down on operations over Iraq.

"We will not be able to guarantee the safety of those shot down over Iraq," a communique from the air defence force said.

The government newspaper Al Jumhuriya said Iraq's decision to withdraw its forces from Iranian territory from Friday "will free more than 30 divisions of the Iraqi army."

Al Thawra, newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, said the peace initiative would "give Iraq added strength and more resources for victory."

Baghdad would be more able than ever to defeat the military intervention planned by the United States, Egypt and Saudi Arabia and turn it "into a disastrous, expensive adventure. They will see it."

President Saddam Hussein startled the world Wednesday by accepting Iran's conditions for a

formal peace ending the 1980-1988 Gulf war.

The initiative clearly had wide ambitions, not only to free Iraqi troops from the border with Iran but seeking to turn Iraq's bitter enemy to an ally in the fight against the United States.

The Iraqi Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadisiya declared: "The new era of peace between the two countries will also be the beginning of the establishment of Arab-Iranian relations based on cooperation and shared vital interests."

It appealed for "a popular Islamic consensus which rejects this crusader pollution of Islamic holy places and survives under the banner of a holy war... to eliminate the American intervention and free Mecca and the tomb of the Great Prophet from this disgraceful filth."

Iraq also said it will release 1,000 Iranian prisoners a day under the peace initiative aimed at formally ending a decade of conflict with Iran to focus on the confrontation with the U.S. forces deployed in the Gulf.

An air force spokesman, meanwhile, warned that Iraq "cannot guarantee the safety" of any foreign pilot who might be shot down over Iraqi territory because of

"the rage of the Iraqi people and the Arabs harbouring the aggressive foreign intervention."

The warning was broadcast by Baghdad Radio.

The Iraqi News Agency quoted a presidential spokesman as saying Iraq had decided to repatriate 2,000 Iranian prisoners a day as of Friday.

But the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) said it did not have the facilities to absorb such a large number, "and that it is ready to handle 1,000 prisoners daily," INA quoted the spokesman as saying.

He said those held longest will be the first to be released Friday at the border posts of Kasr-e-Shirin and Khanaqin.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, said the governor of Qasr-e-Shirin said preparations to receive the freed inmates have been completed. It did not name the governor.

In Geneva, Martine Haemmerli, an ICRC spokesman confirmed that at ICRC request the transfer would at first be limited to 1,000 a day because a larger number could not yet be handled by the 19-member Baghdad delegation of the Red Cross.

She said Iran had informed the Red Cross it would be ready to accept the first group Friday at the border. Inmates of a camp at Mosul, near the Iraqi-Turkish border, will make up the first group, she said.

Haemmerli said the experience gained in the first phase will allow stepping up the pace to an eventual 2,000 daily.

She said there has been no word yet from the Iranians as to when the first large group of Iraqi POWs would be repatriated.

Iranian newspapers Thursday hailed the dramatic peace offer by Iraq as total victory for Iran 10 years after the Gulf war started.

"Congratulations on the great victory to the Iranian revolutionary nation," ran a headline in Jomhuri Eslami after Saddam Hussein told Iran he agreed to all its demands for a peace accord to the war, hailed by a U.N.-brokered ceasefire in August 1988.

The English-language Kayhan Daily said Saddam's declaration Wednesday did not affect Iran's condemnation of Iraq's take-over of Kuwait Aug. 2.

"The Iraqi annexation of Kuwait is not acceptable..." it said.

Baghdad's offer to pull troops out of Iranian territory and back down on a border dispute along the Shatt Al Arab waterway proved Tehran had justice on its side, Jomhuri Eslami said.

The papers rejoiced that 30,000 Iranian prisoners of war would soon be coming home. The whole nation should honour them, Jomhuri Eslami said.

The English-language Tehran Times said it hoped a peaceful solution would be found to the present Gulf crisis.

Kayhan denounced the build up of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, saying it could have catastrophic results for the Muslim world.

"Let no-one be deceived by the U.S. presence and intention in this latest outbreak of... Gulf tension," it said.

"The real issue is not the sovereignty of the Al Sababs (the ousted ruling family of Kuwait) or the Al Sauds (Saudi Arabia's rulers) but the continued ability of Washington to dictate oil pricing policy in the Middle East," it said.

## Opposition grows to Pakistani role in Gulf

ISLAMABAD (R) — Opposition is growing in Pakistan to a government decision to send troops to join Islamic forces deployed in Saudi Arabia.

Right-wing religious parties and the leftist Awami National Party (ANP) have condemned the decision, which has also been greeted by critical newspaper editorials.

The government of Prime Minister Gulam Mustafa Jatoi has yet to say how many soldiers will be sent to Saudi Arabia, where U.S., Egyptian, Moroccan and Syrian forces are already in place.

Defence sources believe about 5,000 combat troops will be sent for what Jatoi said would be the defence of Islam's holiest shrines in Saudi Arabia.

ANP leader Khan Abdul Wali Khan Thursday demanded the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Saudi Arabia and attacked Pakistan's decision to take part.

"We oppose this move and consider it protection of the interests of the United States," he told reporters in Peshawar.

The Muslim daily also accused Jatoi of buckling under U.S. pressure and urged him to think again.

"It is doubtful if any single decision made by any government in Pakistan throughout the country's 43-year history has run in such clear violation of our national aspirations and enlightened self-interest," it said in an editorial.

The U.S. embassy in Islamabad denies playing any role in persuading Pakistan to join the multinational force.

The Nation, a Lahore-based English language daily, said Pakistan was jeopardising the safety of 100,000 Pakistani workers living in Kuwait and Iraq and could push Baghdad into supporting India over Kashmir.

India and Pakistan have been at loggerheads over an uprising in Indian Kashmir since the beginning of the year, but Islamabad's stand recently won the support of Arab states.

Pakistan has about 90,000 nationals working in Kuwait. Many crossed into Saudi Arabia after the Iraqi take-over Aug. 2.

State-run Pakistan International Airlines plans six emergency flights from Saudi Arabia to pick up Pakistanis fleeing Kuwait, an airline spokesman said on Thursday.

He said the national carrier would operate one flight daily from Riyadh to Karachi from Friday to Wednesday.

**Malaysian role sought**

Saudi Arabia has asked Malaysia to send troops to help protect it from a possible "invasion," Defence Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen said Thursday.

"This has been conveyed to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, but so far we have not made any decision," Tengku Ahmad told reporters in Tumpat, 350 kilometres northeast of Kuala Lumpur.

Tengku Ahmad said Malaysia will study the situation in the Gulf region before deciding whether to extend any aid, including military assistance, the national news agency Bernama reported.

Government officials said King Fahd of Saudi Arabia made the request to Malaysia through a special envoy, Sheikh Abdul Aziz.

Sheikh Abdul, who is also Saudi Arabia's deputy foreign minister, was scheduled to leave for Jakarta, Indonesia, later Thursday with a similar message for President Suharto, they said.

Sheikh Abdul, who also visited Bangladesh, said that country has agreed to send troops to Saudi Arabia.

Malaysia is a member of the United Nations Security Council and was one of the sponsors of the resolution calling for a trade embargo on Kuwait and Iraq.

Malaysia has sent troops overseas on many occasions beginning with the Congo crisis in Africa in the 1960s. It also sent troops to monitor the Iraq-Iran border and to Namibia.

## Arafat proposes Maghreb role

TUNIS (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat sent an urgent message to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein concerning steps by the organisation to find an Arab solution for the crisis in the Gulf, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported Thursday.

Western diplomats here said he reportedly proposed that North African nations mediate the crisis triggered by Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

Wafa said only that the "urgent message" concerned "steps taken by the PLO to ease the crisis in the Gulf and reach an Arab solution to this crisis."

The agency said the message was handed to Iraqi Ambassador to Tunisia Hamed Jabbouri Tuesday.

Western diplomatic sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Arafat feels the North African states are "best placed to play the role of mediator in the Gulf, given that they are not directly implicated in the conflict."

Arafat met Wednesday with Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali and was expected to hold similar meetings in Algiers and Rabat.

The five North African states — Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania and Libya, have taken varied stands on the crisis.

Tunisia was the only Arab League member not to attend the summit which condemned the takeover and voted for an Arab force. Ben Ali has spoken out against the growing Western military presence in the region.

Libya voted against the Arab League resolution, while Morocco, at the other end, has sent troops to Saudi Arabia after voting for the resolution.

Algeria, which initially harshly condemned the takeover, abstained from voting on the resolution. Demonstrations against the Western build-up in the Gulf were held by various political parties in three Algerian cities Wednesday. Mauritania expressed reservations, neither voting nor abstaining.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi gave Arafat a letter for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the official Libyan News Agency JANA said Thursday.

The JANA dispatch from Tripoli did not say what the message said. JANA said Arafat arrived Wednesday morning in Libya, met with Qadhafi in the afternoon and departed later in the day.

On Wednesday, Qadhafi called for the U.N. Security Council to meet in Geneva and consider steps that might avoid a "calamity" in the Gulf.

Security Council officials con-

## Yemenis demand American pullout

SANAA (Agencies) — About 50,000 people marched to the U.S. embassy in Sanaa Thursday demanding an immediate withdrawal of American forces from Arab land.

The peaceful march, the biggest since the Yemeni republic was formed in May, also supported Iraq's peace initiative towards its Gulf war foe Iran.

A delegation representing the People's Committee for the Support of Iraq and the Arab Nation handed an embassy official a note for delivery to President George Bush who has sent more than 60,000 U.S. troops to Saudi Arabia.

The demonstrators included political leaders, intellectuals, trade unionists, journalists, lawyers and peasants.

They wound their way through the main streets of the Yemeni capital, carrying placards and shouting slogans denouncing the U.S. and supporting Iraq.

"People of Iraq, we are with you," "the Iraqi initiative a positive step," "political parties and organisations reject intervention" and "No to imperialist forces in the Gulf" shouted the protesters.

A U.S. embassy official hesitated before venturing out to the main gate to be given the note, but was assured he would not be harmed.

Yemenis held several demonstrations last week against the sending of U.S. and Western forces in the Gulf after Iraq's take-over of Kuwait.

Yemen abstained at an emergency Arab summit held in Cairo endorsing the deployment of Arab forces to Saudi Arabia.

The protests started in the wake of the summit conference.

Police had barricaded roads leading to the American, Saudi Arabian and Egyptian embassies. These premises, along with those of the British and French embassies, were the target of stone-throwing and violent shouting immediately after the vote Friday.

"O coward Sand, agent of the Americans," "O Mebarak, agent of the Americans," were common slogans used Thursday by the demonstrators.

They were also shouting "boycott for those who boycott Iraq," "No interference in Arab affairs," and "no sterling or dollar, no America or imperialism."

Aside from Saddam's photos, the demonstrators also carried those of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Yemen has not officially condemned the U.S. buildup, Egypt or Saudi Arabia. But the ruling presidium has called on the world community to accept Saddam's initiative linking the settlement to Israel withdrawing from the occupied territories as a beginning for settlement of the Gulf crisis.

Yemenis have long resented the dominance of Saudi Arabia on the Arabian peninsula, but an estimated one million work in the kingdom.

Leading the demonstrations were political parties that are reviving since the merger, mainly those with pro-Iraqi affiliations.

The authorities have said that the constitution of the unified Yemen guarantees freedom of expression, and that their role is limited to guaranteeing security of the foreign embassies.

There is a Palestinian contingent based in Yemen since the exodus of 8,000 fighters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation from Beirut after the Israeli invasion of 1982.

## Pro-Iraq rallies

(Continued from page 1)

"Fahd, you are a servant of the White House," yelled another.

Dozens of Israeli troops observed the march from rooftops outside the market. When marchers began hurling stones and bottles, troops responded with tear gas and rubber bullets. There were no reports of injuries.

Saddam fever has been sweeping the West Bank and Gaza Strip since Sunday, when the Iraqi leader said he would only consider pulling out of Kuwait if Israel withdrew from the lands it occupied in the 1967 war.

A leaflet distributed in the occupied territories Thursday called for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

But the statement also blamed the "American-Israeli military alliance" for leading the Middle East into turmoil.

Palestinians have accused the United States of adopting a double standard — tolerating Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip while reacting with all its might to the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait.

The statement also blamed the "American-Israeli military alliance" for leading the Middle East into turmoil.

Palestinians have accused the United States of adopting a double standard — tolerating Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip while reacting with all its might to the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait.

## American woman, daughter shot dead in Saudi Arabia

NICOSIA (R) — An American woman and her daughter were shot dead in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, during a gunbattle between police and a drug dealer who hijacked their car, the Saudi Press Agency said Thursday.

The U.S. embassy in Riyadh named the Americans killed in the Tuesday night incident as Kimberly Hinkson, 33, and her daughter Courtney, 10, from California.

"Security men captured (the drug dealer) ... the wife of an American and her daughter were killed," the agency said.

The embassy said the Hinksons, who had five other children, had been living in Saudi Arabia for seven years where Kimberly's husband Kent worked as a computer architect for the Riyadh Development Authority.

U.S. Ambassador Chas W. Freeman had a meeting with governor of Riyadh Prince Salman Ben Abdul Aziz Wednesday to discuss the killings which the Saudi police were still investigating.

The embassy said the incident was "in no way" connected with the deployment to Saudi Arabia of U.S. troops.

An embassy spokesman later said Kent Hinkson was slightly wounded in the shootout. He said it was unclear who had fired the bullets which killed Hinkson's wife and daughter.

The family originally came from California but also have a home in Utah, the spokesman added.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

**Little protest in U.S. over Gulf**

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's streets and campuses, which rang with protest in the era of Vietnam, are quiet as the Bush administration challenges Iraq's Saddam Hussein in the Gulf. They may or may not stay that way. From Washington to San Francisco, protest demonstrations have been few and poorly attended since the United States sent troops to Saudi Arabia. Summer school is winding up at the nation's colleges and universities, and most students are away, but even for summer the response has been notably calm. One reason is that Americans view Saddam as a villain, whereas many thought the United States overreached in its bombing of North Vietnam, according to experts who have observed anti-war movements both from within and from without. An Associated Press poll conducted last week showed 64 per cent approval for the use of U.S. troops to defend Saudi Arabia against possible Iraqi attack.

**China to help evacuate Taiwanese**

BEIJING (AP) — The Chinese embassy in Kuwait has offered to help evacuate 123 Taiwanese businessmen from the besieged capital, a Chinese official said Thursday. The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade received a cable from the Chinese embassy saying the embassy would help the 123 employees of Taiwan's state-run BES Engineering leave Kuwait, said the official from the ministry's international cooperation department. She refused to give her name or provide any other information, and directed further questions to the Foreign Ministry. The foreign ministry had no immediate comment. In Taiwan, Vice-Foreign Minister Chen Chien-Jen refused to comment on China's offer of help. "We have sought help from all channels... not including the Chinese communists," he said.

**Nakayama due in Middle East Friday**

TOKYO (AP) — Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama leaves Friday on a nine-day visit to the Middle East in place of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who has postponed a trip to the troubled oil-rich region. The Foreign Ministry said Thursday. Earlier this week, Kaifu announced he would delay his trip, scheduled before the Iraqi crisis erupted, and would send Nakayama instead. Ministry officials said Nakayama will visit Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Jordan and Egypt for talks about the Middle East crisis and on ways Japan can help restore peace and stability there. Nakayama's schedule includes an overnight stopover in Bangkok before arriving in Saudi Arabia Saturday, followed by a two-day visit to Oman starting Sunday. Nakayama is to visit Jordan Monday, Egypt Tuesday and Turkey Wednesday.

**Gas masks pose problem for Jews**

TEL AVIV (AP) — Ultra-orthodox Jewish men face a dilemma in preparing for a possible gas attack: shave off their beards or do without gas masks. Jewish law forbids men from shaving, and many ultra-orthodox men grow full beards and wear side curls. But traditional gas masks won't seal properly over facial hair. The Israeli government has considered distributing masks because of warning by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Private sales of masks have boomed following the threats. The religious weekly Yom Hashishi Thursday suggested that ultra-orthodox men consider acquiring gas masks designed for children because they cover the entire head. However, Israel's civil defence agency, which is responsible for procuring and distributing gas masks, says catering to the needs of bearded men would not be possible. "As believers and children of believers, we are continuing to live our lives with faith and, in the end, those who are worthy of protection will be protected," Yom Hashishi said.

**Arab students stage Gulf protest**

BUCHAREST (R) — About 200 Arab students demonstrated peacefully outside the United States embassy in Bucharest Thursday, protesting against U.S. action in the Gulf. The students, chanting anti-American slogans, were supervised by stewards who said they wished to avoid any violence. Jordanians, Iraqis, Libyans, Sudanese and Palestinians joined the protest against the U.S. decision to send troops to Saudi Arabia following the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait. Thousands of Arab students came to study in Romania under deals reached with dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, and many have stayed on since the December revolution when he was overthrown and executed.

**Indian foreign minister contacts superpowers**

WASHINGTON (AP) — India's Foreign Minister, fresh from talks with U.S. and Soviet officials, said "we are with the world community" on the question of embargoing trade with Iraq. But India is also deeply concerned about the safety of 185,000 of its citizens who have been living in Iraq and Kuwait, External Affairs Minister Inder K. Gujral said Wednesday night after an hour-long meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. That was a major concern prompting him to fly to Moscow and Washington the past two days to discuss the Middle East crisis, he said. Gujral met Baker hours after arriving from Moscow, where he talked with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

**Bangladesh feels bite of Gulf crisis**

DHAKA (R) — Hundreds of anxious motorists queued up outside jammed petrol stations in Dhaka Thursday after Bangladesh banned the sale of oil and petrol on Fridays to save stocks for emergencies. "We are having an unusual rush since (President Hossain Mohammad) Ershad ordered an oil holiday on Friday's and hinted at a possible shortage in oil supplies amid fears of a fresh Gulf war," said the manager of a city petrol depot. Queuing motorists said they feared petrol and other fuel prices might go up if imports from the Middle East were stopped or delayed. Bangladesh buys nearly two million tonnes of petroleum products and about one million tonnes of crude oil every year from Gulf countries, particularly from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 723111-19

#### PROGRAMME ONE

16:00 Koran  
16:15 Children programme  
16:20 Religious programme  
16:30 Friday's prayer  
16:45 Sports programme  
16:55 Religious seminar  
17:00 Feature film  
17:10 News summary  
17:20 Local programme  
17:30 Programme review  
17:40 News in Arabic  
17:50 Arabic series  
18:00 Jerash '89  
18:10 News summary in Arabic  
18:20 Programme coord.

#### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 French film  
17:40 News in French  
17:50 Documentary  
18:00 News in Hebrew  
18:10 News in Arabic  
18:20 Couch  
18:30 Midnight Celler  
18:40 News in English  
18:50 No More Dying This

#### PRAYER TIMES

04:32 Fajr  
05:56 Sunrise  
12:40 Dhuhr

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swethish Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrence Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 827981, 683326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932.

#### WEATHER

Report supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will be fair and winds will be

northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to fresh and sea calm.

Min./max. temp.  
Amman 18 / 30  
Aqaba 23 / 37  
Deserts 20 / 34  
Jordan Valley 24 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. George Sabour 776751  
Dr. Fikham Kan'an 890286  
First pharmacy 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy 637025  
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shamsani pharmacy 637660

### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence immediate 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 891228

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22  
Khaldil Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6  
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn. 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642262  
Mafus, J. Amman 636140  
Palestine, Shamsani 664171/4  
Shamsani Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital 66727/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6  
Infanta, Al-Muhajirin 777101/2  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26  
Acay, Marka 89161/15  
Queen Abla Hospital 622442/20  
Amal Hospital 661176  
Complaints 897467  
Amman Municipality 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone 623101  
Repairs  
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television 773111

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Bds per kg.

Apples 600 / 500  
Apricots 600 / 500  
Bananas 500 / 450  
Bananas (Yakumama) 450 / 400  
Beans 300 / 250  
Cabbages 130 / 100  
Carrots 240 / 180  
Cauliflowers 200 / 150  
Corn 250 / 208  
Cucumbers (large) 120 / 80  
Cucumbers (small) 240 / 180  
Eggplants 300 / 400  
Figs 160 / 120  
Garlic 800 / 700  
Grapefruit 350 / 300  
Grapes 250 / 200  
Lemons (green) 350 / 300  
Lemons (yellow) 450 / 400  
Marrow (large) 120 / 80  
Marrow (small) 100 / 60  
Onion (dry) 200 / 150  
Onion (wet) 220 / 180  
Orange 400 / 400  
Okra 450 / 400  
Peas 580 / 500  
Pepper (hot) 200 / 150  
Pepper (sweet) 150 / 120  
Radish 350 / 280  
Sage 120 / 100  
Sweet melon 150 / 100  
Watermelon 110 / 70



## Iraqi flight brings in 175 passengers

By Marwan Haddad  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An Iraqi Airways plane landed in Amman carrying about 175 passengers Thursday morning, raising hopes that Westerners stranded in Kuwait and Iraq could have been aboard, but the hope was short-lived when it became clear that the only Westerner it carried was an American television crew who had interviewed Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Baghdad Wednesday.

The flight, believed to be the first to land in Amman since early last week when a group of Japanese and French nationals flew in from the Iraqi capital, "carried mostly Arabs and some Asians," according to a passenger aboard the Boeing 727.

Almost all other airports around the world are closed to Iraq in line with the UN resolutions 660, 661 and 662 applying economic sanctions against Baghdad. Amman's airport remains open since the Jordanian government has not yet applied sanctions against Iraq.

This commercial flight is the first to fly the Baghdad-Amman route since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Iraqi Airways officials said that flights from Baghdad to Amman will, "hopefully" resume on a daily basis, but that no exact schedule has been set yet.

According to the Associated Press, which quoted an Iraqi Airways official, the flight brought 175 passengers into Amman and took the same number of people back to Baghdad. The official said that Thursday's flight to and from Amman only carried Arab passengers.

However, sources told the Jordan Times an American television crew was on the jetliner that landed in Amman. The television crew was brought to Baghdad last Tuesday to conduct an interview with Tariq Aziz.

The sources also said that there were no Westerners on the flight to Amman other than the American crew. The rest of the passengers were Arabs and Asians.

Later Thursday, an Iraqi Airways official was quoted as saying an Iraqi Airways plane will fly to Amman from Baghdad Friday on the first commercial flight out of the Iraqi capital in 10 days.

"Our first flight from Baghdad will arrive at Queen Alia International Airport just after 1300 local time (1000 GMT), the unidentified official was quoted as saying by Reuters. "It will also return to Baghdad on the same day," she said.

She said it has not been decided whether to resume regular flights, adding: "It is not clear yet. It will be decided on a day-to-day basis."

## House urges government to open state media to public leaders

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Thursday urged the government to allow public Jordanian leaders to address the people through the official media in order to inform them on the repercussions of the Gulf crisis in Jordan.

"The public has to be informed about the logistics and implications of the Gulf crisis," Speaker of the Lower House Suleiman Arar said in an interview at the end of a closed meeting Thursday morning.

Arar explained that specialised personalities would also provide the public with information on ways to tighten their belts and minimise their expenditures to "allow the

country to face this dangerous challenge which the people of this country have decided to stand up to behind its leadership."

"We in Jordan believe that we are facing an impending danger with no foreseen results, but we have to be ready for, and this is the choice of our people," Arar said.

The House also called for a more effective civil defence planning by the government and highlighted the importance of enlisting larger numbers of people in the People's Army. "We asked for speedy training in the different parts of the Kingdom in order not to be taken by surprise by the development of events."



Suleiman Arar

The House also decided to send a number of letters to friendly parliaments around the world to explain "Iraq's position and the threats now facing the region," Arar said.

## 8,000 cross into Jordan from Iraq; 'human wave' expected

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Over eight thousand people crossed into Jordan from Iraq Thursday as the Iraqi authorities further relaxed exit formalities of residents Asians, Africans, Latin Americans and East Europeans, and officials said there could be a "human wave" across the border in the next few days amid mounting fears of a military conflagration in the Gulf.

Among those who arrived here Thursday were seven Westerners — three Americans, three Britons and a woman born in Madagascar and believed to hold a French passport. They were the first Westerners allowed to leave Iraq in five days.

American embassy officials identified one of the Americans as a U.S. national of Arab origin, but said the other two have used their privileges under "the privacy waiver act" and opted not to be named. British embassy officials said the three Britons did not contact the embassy, and other sources said they were of Indian origin holding British passports and were stranded in Kuwait as transit passengers.

Meanwhile, special flights from several Asian countries landed and took off from Queen Alia International Airport carrying evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait. These included flights from India and the Philippines; the two countries with large expatriate communities living in Kuwait and Iraq.

According to ABC television, most Europeans and North Americans stranded in Amman were free to move around in Baghdad except for a group of 36 Americans and two Britons who were restricted to a hotel in the Iraqi capital. ABC said the group, which was taken from Kuwait to Bag-

dad, was otherwise being treated well.

In the meantime, reports from the Saudi-Jordanian border indicated an average of 900 people, mostly of Arab origin, crossing over to Jordan after reaching Saudi Arabia from Kuwait following Baghdad's takeover on Aug. 2.

A witness who visited the border post told the Jordan Times that most of the arrivals were Syrians, Lebanese and Egyptians. "The border authorities have adopted a system of collecting a copy of a couple of hundred people of the same nationality and driving the convoy under escort to the border," the witness told the Jordan Times. "The Syrians and Lebanese are driven to the border at Ramtha while the Egyptians and other North Africans are taken to Aqaba" where they can board one of the ferries across the gulf of Aqaba to Nuweiba in Egypt.

There was no precise estimate of people who have crossed over from Saudi Arabia since Aug. 2, but thousands of foreigners and Kuwaitis themselves have fled Kuwait and entered Saudi Arabia in the wake of the Iraqi army's move into Kuwait.

Over 3,800 Egyptians and 600 Indians were among those arriving here Thursday, and witnesses reported chaotic scenes at the Al Ruweished border post with Iraq where the arrivals milled around, with many of them looking for transport to Amman since buses that brought them to the post returned to Baghdad to fetch more foreigners leaving Iraq.

Private bus operators in Amman report heavy demand for their vehicles, mostly from diplomatic missions, to bring passengers from

Bagdad, and one company said its buses were operating round the clock with drivers on a shift basis. "Even at that, we have problems coping with the flood," said the manager of a private transport company in Whidat who refused to be identified.

"Sometimes we end up with 200 passengers crowding into a bus, leaving us with no choice but to threaten not to leave at all unless two thirds of them get down from the vehicle," he told the Jordan Times. He refused to provide any figure for the charges the company was levying for transport from Baghdad to Amman, but several diplomatic missions said the rate was as much as five times the normal rate between Amman and Baghdad.

Reports from many Third World capitals indicated that their governments were in close contact with the Iraqi foreign ministry in Baghdad and were promised that all their nationals would be allowed to leave.

According to a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman in Moscow, a group of 230 Soviet women and children have left Kuwait for Baghdad and will be evacuated to the Soviet Union through Jordan.

"The question of men will be raised later," Yuri Gremitskikh was quoted as saying. "The evacuation can only be done in stages, women and children first."

Iraq had given assurances there was no danger to Soviet citizens, and was cooperating in the evacuation, the spokesman said.

## Queen pledges continued commitment to community

AMMAN (J.T.) — Upon an invitation by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), the official, voluntary and public groups working with NHF met at Al Nadwa Palace Thursday to discuss ways to widen the scope of NHF's developmental strategy in the social fields to include new services, information programmes and training courses to meet the Jordanian families' needs at the current stage.

In an address to the meeting Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein emphasised the call made by His Majesty King Hussein to step up national efforts to protect Jordan and its citizens and enhance the self-dependency aspects concerning Jordan's essential needs.

Participants at the meeting reviewed some proposals through which NHF could contribute to

supporting the national effort by utilising the wide range of projects carried out by it in cooperation with different committees.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Civil Defence Department, the ministries of health, agriculture, social development and information as well as the societies working with NHF.

Following is Her Majesty's address:

Throughout the modern history of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, women's organisations, community development groups and private voluntary organisations have played a constructive and essential role in meeting the social and human development needs of the Jordanian people.

Working in close partnership with the public sector and international development agencies, they have developed effective services in the fields of health, education, maternal and child needs, training, environmental protection and income-generation projects.

Within the past several years, our national economic adjustment policies have brought us face-to-face with new needs and priorities, and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation has responded with initiatives that aim at raising community standards through income-generating projects based on training of women in productive, home- and community-based industries.

Today, the foundation launches a new initiative which brings together the men and women leaders of the foundation's projects and the country's women's groups, private voluntary organisations and grassroots community development strategy with new services, information programmes and training schemes that respond more effectively to the current needs of our Jordanian family.

In line with His Majesty King Hussein's call for greater national efforts for self-protection in times of emergency and enhanced self-reliance for our essential needs, we seek to play our part, at the foundation and throughout the private voluntary sector, by turning our energies to teaching families and communities to help themselves during this challenging and difficult period.

This is an effort that should focus on the personal potential of every Jordanian man, woman and family — in such areas as rationing of consumption, home economics, nutrition and garden food production, health and first aid, water and energy conservation and environmental protection,



income-generating home-based industries, and other community-based self-help programmes. These are fields of knowledge and awareness which should form the basis for sound national development at any time — but they are particularly applicable and important to us today. By empowering communities to meet their basic needs during periods of economic constraint, and to protect themselves in times of emergency, we shall overcome the present economic pressures and regional turbulence and emerge from the experience as a stronger and more self-reliant national community.

Our sense of national unity, the dynamism of our people, and the responsible actions of our national and community leaderships shall reaffirm the spirit of sharing and hard work which the Arab and Islamic world has always been able to draw upon at pivotal junctures in its long and rich history. At moments such as these, we are called upon to join hands and to pool our resources in a collective effort of awareness, learning, adaptation and hard work.

I would like to take this opportunity to reemphasise my personal commitment to these standards of community service, and to the welfare and well-being of the people of Jordan and the Arab Nation. Our long experience in social development activities in Jordan has now brought us all to the threshold of a new opportunity — the opportunity to serve family and friends, community and people, country and nation.

I pledge myself once again to work with you personally and closely in this noble venture, and to help expand the circle of hands which clasp together in affirmation of the cardinal principle of Jordan's national development: the principle of human beings empowering themselves with education and knowledge, and working together selflessly and diligently for the common good of their community and country.

## Rallies in Zarqa praise King's stand, Iraqi leader

ZARQA (Petra) — Participants at a public rally organised by the Jordan Engineers Association in Zarqa called for unifying the peoples of the Arab Nation.

Deputies Yousef al Athem and Theeb Anis and representative of the Federation of the Jordanian Labour Unions Ali Abu Sukkar said in their speeches at the rally that the American invasion of Arab lands was a start for bringing into reality the Zionist dream of giving the Arab lands for the non-Arabs and of exploiting its wealth.

The speakers denounced the means used for dominating the land and its people and said this critical time through which the Arab Nation is passing tests its capability of achieving unity and maintaining its Arab and Islamic identity.

In another development a "Mobilisation March" took place in the streets of Zarqa Thursday. Thousands of citizens carrying Jordanian and Iraqi flags and photos of His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein took part in the march.

The participants chanted slogans expressing support for the Jordanian and Iraqi leaderships.

Another public rally was held at Zarqa Municipal stadium. The participants voiced condemnation of the American invasion of the Arab Gulf region and commended the wise leadership of King Hussein.

## Councils voice support for King Hussein, Iraqi leader

AMMAN (Petra) — The national general conference of the local municipal councils which was held Thursday at the Palace of Culture voiced support for His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Participants in the conference, which held under the slogan "Confronting the new Imperialist-Zionist Aggression on the Arab World," affirmed that Jihad (the holy Islamic war) was the only means to fight the enemies of the Arab Nation.

The participants announced the final communiqué, backing the Jordanian national leadership and the Jordanian Armed Forces in defending the country and called for rejecting rumours which aim at undermining the national unity.

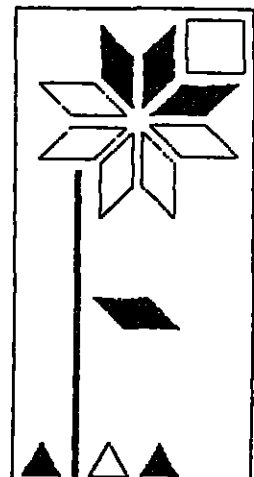
They called citizens to ration consumption, to be ready for confrontation at any time.

In the communiqué they also commended the Iraqi peace initiative which offered a peaceful settlement with Iran "so that we all stand in one trench in confronting the imperialist-Zionist plots." They also appealed to all citizens to boycott American goods.

## WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

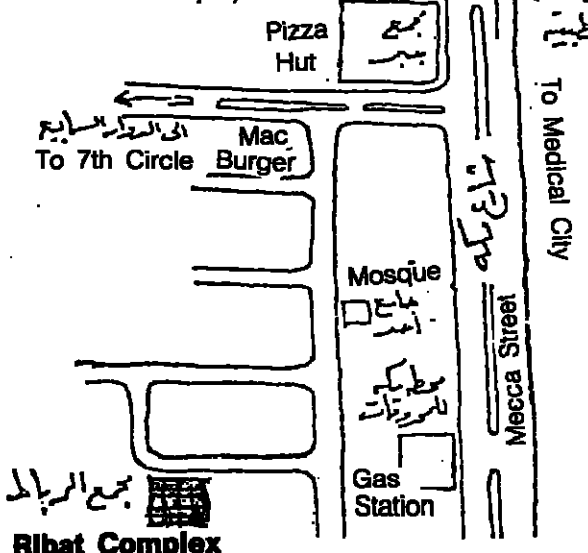
- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Roseenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by 10 Iraqi artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Samir Al Shmrati at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Under the Patronage of  
Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein  
IN COOPERATION WITH NOOR AL HUSSEIN FOUNDATION  
AND THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND FUNDED BY U.S. AID  
**THE HANDICRAFT SUMMER EXHIBITION**



quilts leather handbags beachbags  
collector's dolls picture frames olive oil soap  
Thursday, 9 - Saturday 18 August, 1990  
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Al Ribat Center

Jordan River Designs  
a Save the Children project



## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Regent congratulates South Korea

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday sent a cable of congratulations to South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo in which he congratulated him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people on his country's independence day anniversary. Prince Hassan wished the South Korean president continued good health and happiness and the South Korean people further progress and prosperity.

### NMI annulled

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Thursday approving a law on the annulment of the National Medical Institution (NMI) thus returning the hospitals' administration to the institutions that used to supervise them before the NMI was established. These institutions will take responsibility of supervising and managing the hospitals. The NMI funds and financial commitments will be liquidated in accordance with decisions to be taken by the Cabinet. The approval law stipulates that employees and workers who used to follow the Ministry of Health, the University of Jordan and the Royal Medical Services Department return to their previous jobs.

### Cabinet approves law amendment

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet approved an amendment to the tables of drugs law based on Article 30 of the Drugs Law No. 11, 1988. The amendment included adding several narcotic substances to the table of prohibited substances.

### Zaben inspects Ghor Al Safi hospitals

KARAK (Petra) — Minister of Health Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben Thursday inspected work and services presented to citizens at Ghor Al Safi hospital and health centres in Ghor Al Safi, Al Mazra'a, Al Haditha, Fiqeh and Al Ma'moura villages. Zaben met with officials at the centres and discussed the needs of the centres and ways of improving services at them. Zaben was accompanied by Karak Governor Ismail Duhaimein Al Zaben, Lower House of Parliament Deputy Mahmoud Al Hweimein and the director of Karak Health Department.

### Forged ownership certificates on the market

AMMAN (Petra) — An official at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) said Thursday the Criminal Investigation Department received information from the general secretariat of the Interpol that some persons are trying to sell forged ownership certificates of ingots 999.5 attributed to Mexico Bank with prices 20 per cent less than the common price. The source asked citizens to be cautious and not to get involved if they were offered such certificates.

### Zarqa citizens train for People's Army

ZARQA (Petra) — The process of training citizens for the People's Army in Zarqa and Russeifa cities started Thursday, according to Zarqa Governor Mohammad Hussein Al Shobaki. Shobaki said the response of citizens for calls to join the People's Army was encouraging and affirmed that the timing of the training process is flexible and does not affect the recruit's daily commitments. In another development Shobaki received in his office representatives of the clubs and youth centres who offered to present all they can to the People's Army command and the Civil Defence Department to train people on arms and rescue works.

### Ramtha voices support for King's stand

RAMTHA (Petra) — Ramtha cultural forum Thursday organised a public rally to voice support for His Majesty King Hussein and his stand on the situation in the Arab Gulf region. Speakers at the rally affirmed their full support for King Hussein and lauded his efforts to reach a settlement to the Gulf crisis. They also stressed the importance of providing Ramtha district capabilities to fortify Jordan's steadfastness and defend Iraq against conspiracies.

### Faqir meets preachers

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqir met Thursday with mosque preachers in Amman Governorate. Faqir stressed the role of mosque preachers in directing the local public opinion. Faqir pointed out to the necessity of advising people not to store food supplies since this practice is against the regulations of Islam. He said the dangers threatening the Muslim and the Arab Nation are the clearest evidence of the hatred crusade against Islam.

### Faqir inaugurates mosques

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqir Thursday opened two mosques in Bal'ama area, Al Mafraq Governorate. Faqir delivered a speech in which he affirmed the role of mosques in preparing the generations for resisting the enemies of the Islamic Nation.

## Industrialists, unionists pledge cooperation to overcome economic sanctions, difficulties

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Threatened by a possible cut of raw materials members of the Jordanian Chamber of Industries and heads of major labour unions met Thursday to discuss ways and means to increase industrial production in the Kingdom in spite of the economic sanctions imposed by the international community against one of Jordan's main industrial trading partners, Iraq.

Despite the continuing debate over the compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions 660, 661 and 662 — that imposed economic sanctions against Iraq, members of the Jordan Chamber of Industry and heads of the major labour unions discussed ways to increase the production capabilities of Jordanian industries and continue their trade relations with Iraq.

Approximately 70 per cent of Jordan's manufactured industrial goods are sold to Iraq and producers question the ability of going along with U.N. imposed economic sanctions against Iraq and still surviving.

Industrialists privately voiced fears over the possibility of economic sanctions against Jordan if the Kingdom decided not to abide by the U.N. imposed sanctions on Iraq.

Khalidoun Abu Hassan, head of the Jordanian Chamber of Industries, who hosted the meeting, called on Jordanian industrialists and workers to "not only continue their current production rate but to

increase productivity as well as to take austerity measures in the use of raw materials, resources as well as energy and electricity."

Abu Hassan said he was very optimistic that industrialists and the labour force would work hand in hand to overcome and deal with the economic outcome of the current crisis. He said he expected Jordanian industries to continue to cater to markets "at home and abroad."

An application of economic sanctions against Iraq was dismissed by unionists and chamber officials alike. "We sell 'humanitarian manufactured goods to Iraq', such as foodstuffs, clothing, pharmaceutical products, irrigation equipment and detergents," said senior advisor at the chamber of industries Ali Dajani. "Since Iraq buys 70 per cent of our manufactured products it would be disastrous for Jordan's industrial sector to apply the U.N. sanctions against Iraq," Dajani added.

Jordan sold JD 184 million worth of manufactured industrial products in 1989, an estimated JD 124 million of which to Iraq.

Jordan's other exports such as phosphate, potash, agricultural products and fertilisers account for JD 350 million.

Among other things, Jordan depends on the importation of sulfur from Iraq for its phosphate production, a member of the chamber of industries pointed out.

Heads of labour unions said that they would lay aside differences between employers and labourers while Jordan and the Arab World was threatened by a common

enemy — foreign intervention in the region.

"At this time we will close the ranks and become one unit of cooperation," said Abdul Halim Khaddam, a member of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) executive committee.

The Jordanian Chamber of Industries and trade unions had called for the meeting for precisely that purpose, said Abu Hassan.

The meeting was one of the first between representatives of industrialists and unionists since friction started last spring. Observers said it marked another phase in the increasingly unified stand of Jordanians regarding foreign intervention in the Arab World which came about as a result of Iraq's take-over of Kuwait Aug. 2.

### Memorandum to America

Abdul Halim Khaddam briefed members of the chamber on a memorandum the FJLU submitted to the American embassy in Amman at noon Thursday.

The memorandum, Khaddam said, condemned American military intervention in the region. It asked that the U.S. withdraw its troops and fleets from the region and allow Arab countries to solve their differences amongst themselves without outside interference. It was delivered by about 100 protesters who marched from the federation headquarters in Shmeisani to the American embassy in Jabal Amman.



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## What next?

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein undertook a thankless job when he decided to visit with U.S. President George Bush in a bid to de-escalate tension in the Gulf and bring the Iraqi and American positions closer to each other. The King knew very well that the gap between the two sides had been so wide that it was extremely difficult to bridge. With his tremendous experience and wisdom, he must have also foreseen that there were no immediate results that could be achieved, even if luck was on everybody's side. Yet King Hussein had to try.

It may be too early to talk about the results. Evidently, however, the U.S. and Jordan cannot be said to have started seeing things in the same light. This will take time and effort, it has any chance of materialising at all. The meeting with Bush was useful because it gave him a chance to hear the U.S. president's view first-hand, the King said. This means much, although it does not indicate any willingness on the part of the U.S. that is ready to take another look at the situation or reassess its hardline stance in the Gulf crisis.

Maybe we are edging more towards eruption. And if this is the case, Jordan and its King will have tried their utmost to avert such an eventuality.

This does not mean that we should give up. True, His Majesty stood the best chance of cooling heads on both sides. But we will raise our hats to anyone who will take it up from here to see what could be done to prevent a confrontation of catastrophic dimensions.

On the positive side, in the over two-hour meeting with Bush, the King will have lost no time in impressing upon the U.S. president the other side of the story which the Americans have not been seeing.

His Majesty will not have wanted to waste anybody's time or his if he had thought that there was no chance of doing something about the situation. And he will have driven home the clear and loud message that all hope must not be lost of a diplomatic solution, for the alternative will be to no-one's advantage.

The U.S., administration and Congress and public, had whipped up a feverish campaign against Iraq that would have been difficult to calm under any circumstances or outside influence. The campaign would have been further aggravated by the accusations that continued to fly between Washington and Baghdad over the past two days. And it is in such climate that the King's talks took place with President Bush in Kennebunkport, Maine, yesterday.

Doubtless it was painful and difficult. The question now is, if pessimism prevails, what will be next, and whether the situation can be achieved.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE AWAITED meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and American President Bush was described as an opportunity provided by the King to Washington to reassess its position towards the Gulf crisis and adopt a vision guarded by common sense and realistic concern. Al Ra'i Arabic daily maintained that this opportunity may also deter the U.S. from adopting hasty decisions, adding fuel to the fire and leaving the region in a state of instability awaiting the great explosion. The paper added that if the U.S. policy towards the crisis has already led to the regression of the American economy by one to five per cent, then it is obvious that this aggressive threatening policy will lead to a great international economic crisis. Therefore, the paper said, the opportunity provided by King Hussein can be seen as a safety ring that the U.S. should hold tight to save the world at large and this region in particular.

A columnist in Al Ra'i wrote a column in which he expressed his surprise over the American campaign against Jordan and Jordanians at a time when Jordan has not participated in the takeover of Kuwait and did not deny any international decisions. Mahmoud Al Rimawi, pointed out that the only explanation for this attack is that Jordan had refused the interference of any American or foreign hands into the conflict and rejected the idea of providing an Arab cover for this intervention. Rimawi also criticised the timing attack when His Majesty is on his way to Washington to meet with the American president. This behavior is against all international and diplomatic norms and is not in accordance with the long historical respect between the United States and Jordan. He pointed out that this behavior is even more difficult to comprehend when the King is still attempting to contribute to a peaceful settlement for the crisis to preempt the breakout of a destructive war which would not only affect the citizens of the region but also the American and Western interests and forces in the region. He concludes his column by pointing out to the American administration that the peoples of this region have suffered throughout its long history from the results of faulty American policies in the region which were obviously biased against the interests of the Arabs.

Sawt Al Sha'ab and Al Dustour Arabic dailies both discussed the Iraqi initiative for peace with Iran and described it as a courageous move in the right direction. This move, the two papers pointed out, will allow Iraq to free its forces from its borders with Iran and will lift many of the restraints that are limiting the movement of Iraq at this time. What adds more importance to this move is that it comes at a time when the U.S. believed that it has been able to alienate Iraq and weaken it. Al Sha'ab also pointed out that this peaceful move is accompanied by His Majesty's meeting with the American President to establish diplomatic channels of mediation on the Gulf crisis, which would impress Iraq's calls for peace and its good intentions in the region.

# The shifting sands of the Middle East

By Kamel Abu Jaber

NEVER has an event of produced so many surprises as those produced by the latest Gulf crisis: The Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute. Within one day the Iraqis proposed and the Iraqis accepted a settlement of their eight year long dispute. If anything this tells of the perception held by both sides vis-a-vis the foreign incursion into the region. A perception that indicates their fear of the incursion and the danger it produces for the whole region and that this must take precedence over all else. It is a closing of the ranks by some of those in the region against the presence of foreign military powers, and in its own way, it may stabilise the situation.

The implications of the settlement of the Iraq-Iran dispute will, no doubt, continue to unfold well into the future. On the Iranian side it is an indication, a clear and loud one, that what happens in the

Gulf region and on its borders with Iraq is a matter of vital and utmost interest to Iran. While it maintained a war with Iraq for eight years, it also kept repeating and insisting over and over again that it is concerned with the developments in the region and its future.

From Tehran's perspective it is one thing to fight a war with its neighbour Iraq: but that is only one level. It is quite another level to see the region as destabilised as it is currently with the presence of foreign troops. Iran too has a vital interest in the stability and the security, not only of the region in general, but of Iraq in particular.

Iran has always held to the view that the security of the region is a regional matter. Iran's repeated condemnation of the Western colonial mentality and presence is not simply a matter of bombastic nationalistic rhetoric. If the present crisis, incidentally, has proven

anything, it is that classic nineteenth century military colonialism has not, as many people have grown to believe over the past few decades, has not really left the minds of certain Western leaders nor indeed the area. This crisis is an indication that what happened is a simple matter of transferring Western colonial soldiers from the area to camps and barracks close-by, always ready to jump back into the region to punish or to impose their will.

The Iranian-Iraqi settlement settles, a very long, and acrimonious dispute that hopefully will allow the two nations to enter a new era of mutual cooperation and respect. It, the move towards reconciliation, is in accordance with the historical and the cultural tradition of the region especially when the parties concerned perceive a more eminent outside danger. Both Iran and Iraq can recall how they were betrayed by the West: they can understand that, during the

Iran-Iraq war, the West was arming both in the hope that they will demolish each other. They can recall the remark of the infamous Kissinger when he most heartlessly said, "I hope they both lose..." They know that both of them were at best considered tools and pawns in the mind of those who supported them, and that there was nothing genuine about that support.

The settlement, very typical of the politics and the affairs of the region, releases Iraqi energy elsewhere. It also protects the Iraqi back and it might also mushroom should Western military pressure become a threatening reality, it may mushroom into an alliance between the two neighbours. "I and my brother against my cousin and I and my cousin against the stranger" is an Arabic saying that the West should best remember. Like the shifting sands of the area it tells that underneath the surface, there is a desire and a willingness to realign once an outside

threat is felt. It is from the vantage point that a possibility exists that the Arab soldiers standing on the Western side now, may, should fire erupt, turn on the Western and not the Iraqi troops. It is difficult, if not impossible, to contemplate that the Arab troops would shoot Iraqis.

The shift of alliances; the realignment that has already taken place is not final. In the weeks to come further shifts are surely to occur especially when Iraq comes under military attack. It is that, as well as the Arab and the Islamic sentiment that Iraq is relying on. And should Arab politics prove faithful to their traditional pattern; further surprises are sure to come. The affair may erupt into a Muslim-Western confrontation.

All the parties to the dispute are aware that Israel stands to reap further benefits. That Israel at one point or another will surely be drawn into the conflict both because it wants

to, and also because pressure would be applied upon it to enter the conflict. Israel has its own calculations and designs that go beyond the Western attempt to continue the flow of cheap oil to the industrialised countries. Therefore Israel may ultimately take the opportunity by presenting itself now to "balkanise" and fragment the Fertile Crescent region so that it would emerge in the wake of such an operation as the dominant regional power with all the sources of oil under its hegemony.

As the days, or more precisely, the hours, unfold, veil after veil will be lifted to finally expose the real losers and beneficiaries of the continuing escalation of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute. More, much more is yet to come.

Among other things the detente and the settlement of the dispute between the two neighbours would effectively render the sanctions blockade of Iraq by the West, ineffective.

## Saddam Hussein lashes out at Bush

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq has insisted it has no intention of attacking Saudi Arabia, where about 20,000 U.S. troops already have been dispatched to counter any further Iraqi seizure of the huge oil reserves in the Gulf. Other countries with troops in Saudi Arabia include Egypt, Syria, Morocco and Bangladesh.

In the statement, Saddam referred to Iraq as "this Great Arab Nation chosen by God to be the nation of prophets."

Without directly mentioning Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, Saddam said the foreign forces in Saudi Arabia were the true occupiers.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) meanwhile denied a report by the Egyptian news agency MENA which said tanks were in the streets of Baghdad after an assassination attempt on Saddam.

"Baghdad is thriving in the

stability and normal life which its people enjoy in the shadow of their beloved leader Saddam Hussein," INA said.

Iraqi Radio broadcast a message from the minister of defence, General Abdul Jabbar Shanshal, proclaiming loyalty to Saddam and endorsing the proposal which Saddam offered on Wednesday to end the diplomatic stalemate which followed Iraq's costly 1980-88 Gulf war with Iran.

Following is a Reuters translation from Arabic of the full text of Saddam Hussein's "open letter" to Bush Thursday. The text was issued by the Iraqi News Agency.

I have seen your infuriated statements and comments to officials at the American Defense Department, in which you affirmed your determination to continue following a policy of burning Iraq and occupying and defiling Arab and Muslim holy shrines in Hejaz and Nejd.

While reading your remarks, which clearly showed your contempt and

disregard for the Arab mentality and Arab popular and official feelings, I could see how shallow you are. I had imagined you were more far-sighted. So my strong belief in the just course chosen by the people of Iraq, whom I love and serve, has greatly increased. My belief has also increased in the correct stand of every eager Arab and Muslim who chooses the path of holy war against the invading forces.

You, the president of the superpower, have tried together with your small agents to accuse Saddam Hussein of lying after failing in your efforts to discredit him — you who have thick dossiers on others, notably your aides in the region.

You and your agents and "business" partners in the region have tried to say that Saddam Hussein promised Hoshi Mubarak not to do this or that but did it. You know that one of your greatest dreams is for Saddam Hussein to lie, since he who lies loses the support of his faith and so loses power and stamina.

The thing your planners in America and your small isolated agents in the region hate most is for men to be true. The may hate most is Saddam Hussein, because his truthfulness to his principles, to himself and to his people and nation makes him their servant and leader, not a servant of foreigners, while you consider liars in the region to be sincere friends. You know who the biggest liars in the region are.

You, the president of the United States, have chosen to be a liar, like the band whom you have selected and consider to represent the Arab Nation.

In your statements, you have lied to your people and to the public because you have accused Saddam Hussein of lying, basing this on a story by Hoshi Mubarak in which he

claimed that Saddam Hussein had promised him not to use military force but then used it, while this story has proved to be a lie as confirmed by at least eight Iraqi and Egyptian officials who are still alive and can testify to this.

This is because I promised Hoshi Mubarak only that I would not use force until the Jeddah meeting took place. This was clarified in detail by an Iraqi official spokesman August 10, 1990 and I think you know it.

As you know, I used force only after the Jeddah meeting failed. Moreover, you lied to your people when you said that the majority of Arabs support your measures to occupy the Gulf and seize Arab and Muslim holy territory in the Hejaz and Nejd.

The Arabs, president of the United States, are not those rulers who serve you and capitulate to your orders and join you in plundering the nation's wealth. The Arabs are the people, the poor, stricken sons of the nation. They are the nationalist leaders and rulers who clearly expressed their views about the policy of you and your agents in their statements and their rejection of your conspiracies at what you termed the Cairo Summit.

As well as in the mass demonstrations and protests all of which will turn into a tide sweeping away the seat of he who does not resist your shameful designs against the Arab Nation and Muslims holy shrines, and through which you demonstrated how much you hate the Arabs and how much you belittle their will and the will and views of Muslims.

Western public opinion, even American public opinion will stand on the side of justice. With the confrontation escalating, your and your allies' ugly image will become evident. The Americans will tell you

"We united America with blood, why do you work against the unity of the people of Iraq who were divided by imperialism? Why do you throw yourself in the lap of backward exploiters? They will ask you "where are our legitimate interests threatened by Iraq?"

When they learn that Iraq is the one which respects legitimate interests, the wrath of the American people will rise against you and you will fall from your seat after the defeat of your criminal forces through which you imagined you could intimidate the Arab Nation, this great nation which God has chosen to be the nation of prophets, disciples and holy books.

President of America, you lied to your people when you told them you are mobilising forces to protect American interests in Saudi Arabia, then told them that they are there to compel Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. You have not asked yourself whether it would be permissible for Iraq to demand that you withdraw your forces from southern states in America and whether you would respond to this if we demanded it.

For we are on our own land. The Kuwaitis and Iraqis have all been Iraqis from the beginning. Iraq's borders from the beginning have been at Zakho in the north and its borders on the coast extend to An-Najaf and the city of Kuwait in the south. Through their will on which there is no going back the Iraqis have now become one people as they have been throughout history. If the people have been divided by imperialism at one stage and lived for a short period inside lines drawn by imperialism, this is now over. There is no possibility of the backward oil emirs, who distorted the Arab image, returning to the throne.

"We consider as unacceptable the proposal of Saddam to link the Kuwait problem directly with other existing problems in the region," he said.

The initiative aired by President Hussein on Sunday calls for replacement of American troops in the Gulf with Arab forces under the flag of the United Nations, Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, Syrian pullout from Lebanon and a solution to the Iran-Iraq problem. The Iraqi President resolved the Iran-Iraq problem himself Wednesday by accepting three key Iranian demands, including Iraqi evacuation of Iranian territory.

De Michelis expressed hope that His Majesty King Hussein who was meeting in American capital Washington Thursday evening would be successful in his endeavours for a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis.

The same hope was also expressed by Collins. "We hope to God that the King is successful," he commented in side remarks after the press conference. "The prayers of all of us are with the King."

You should believe your people, elected president of the United States, and tell them that you have miscalculated and made your decision too hastily and were dragged in by those who dragged you in. You should tell us this too and call on us to help you to see face through measures and arrangements which do not change the essential unity of the land and people of Iraq.

You should be true to your people and say that Arab and Muslim public opinion opposes your presence on the land of prophets and disciples and your aggression against the holy sites and against Iraq, and that they will resist your designs and sacrifice their lives in defence of their beliefs, their values, their holy shrines and nationalities. You will be defeated because there is no room for injustice to win after justice has found its place and the people have been their true image in right and justice.

Does it not grieve you, president of the state which boasts of being democratic, that your allies are the backward, thieving, and lying among the Arabs, while the enlightened, the strugglers, the freedom fighters and the vanguards of the nation stand on the opposing side.

"Despite all this, we will continue to pray to God that the two sides will not clash because if they do thousands of Americans who have pushed into this dark tunnel will go home shrouded in sad coffins."

The gates of heaven are now open to you, Arabs. You now have the chance of living a noble life. Your turn, Muslim believers, has come and the road of holy war which infuriated the outrageous Bush is now open.

God is great, the unbelievers and aggressors will fail. Pride for Arabs and Muslims as well as for all those noble supporters of right in the world.

## EC sees room for diplomacy in Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

international rules and leave these citizens to freely move," he said.

On the same subject, Ireland's Collins, flanking De Michelis, said the EC was "worried and concerned for" the EC nationals trapped in Baghdad. "We are most anxious to try and get them home as swiftly as we possibly can. We hope that the Jordanians will use their influence with Iraqi parties to help us get them home."

Stopping short of describing the stranded Europeans as "hostages," the Irish minister said: "To put it simply, they have not got the right of freedom to go home... and that is a right they must be given. It is a right that must be respected."

In comments after the press conference, Collins said the community was willing to "explore all possible diplomatic avenues" to secure Iraqi permission for the EC citizens to leave.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, in an interview with ABC television

in Baghdad Wednesday, promised that "no war will affect" the 3,000 or so Americans denied permission to leave Iraq so far. "Those measures are temporary," Aziz was quoted as saying. "I hope, in a short time to come," he said.

"We might say more in the near future about it, but I pledge that they will be safe and no harm will affect them," the foreign minister told Ted Koppel of ABC television, the first American network to gain an interview with a senior Iraqi official in Baghdad after the invasion.

De Michelis told the press conference that Jordan and the European Community were discussing the possibility of convening a conference on Middle East security cooperation. He said the idea was Jordan's and the EC was interested in the proposal. But he ruled out any linkage between the conference and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's initiative calling for linking any solution for the Kuwaiti crisis to all other conflicts over territory in the Middle East.

"We consider as unacceptable the proposal of Saddam to link the Kuwait problem directly with other existing problems in the region," he said.

The initiative aired by President Hussein on Sunday calls for replacement of American troops in the Gulf with Arab forces under the flag of the United Nations, Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, Syrian pullout from Lebanon and a solution to the Iran-Iraq problem. The Iraqi President resolved the Iran-Iraq problem himself Wednesday by accepting three key Iranian demands, including Iraqi evacuation of Iranian territory.

De Michelis expressed hope that His Majesty King Hussein who was meeting in American capital Washington Thursday evening would be successful in his endeavours for a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis.

The same hope was also expressed by Collins. "We hope to God that the King is successful," he commented in side remarks after the press conference. "The prayers of all of us are

with the King."

Collins appeared to be confident that a war could be avoided in the region. "Everyone we talked to is very apprehensive," he said. "Everyone wants to avoid a war, and this we hope will lead to a diplomatic solution."

Asked whether he understood the high tide of popular support for Saddam Hussein, in Jordan, he said: "Of course, there are political and social ramifications."

De Michelis appeared to blame Europe for the Arab sentiment in support of Iraq by saying that Europe was instrumental in bringing about changes in the Arab World which now freely speaks in support of the Iraqi leader. "Arab public opinion is a consequence of our past action," he said without elaboration.

The EC "troika" later left for Jeddah, where they will meet with Saudi leaders and possibly the exiled Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, before proceeding to Alexandria, Egypt, for a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak.

## Sharp decline in Aqaba shipping

(Continued from page 1)

is a killer decision," said a former trade official.

Jawad Al Anani, an economist and former minister, said he expected the losses in the first year to amount to \$1.2 billion if income of the related sectors of transit, spare part shops, resthouses, etc. were included.

"If this situation continues, tens of thousands will starve as thousands will find themselves jobless," warned a shipping executive, who said he might be forced to lay off employees.

Officials said the livelihood of 5,000 workers at the dock and more than 20,000 drivers of transit containers were immediately threatened if the port was forced to stop.

Although the U.S., which has threatened to intercept ships going in or out of the port, has not officially declared a blockade, shipping agents and other Aqaba residents feel besieged by a de

facto embargo.

Kawar reported that four ships handled by its agency cancelled their trips while two Cuban vessels, laden with food supplies, were held at Port Said.

"We were informed that the cargo owners ordered the captains to stop," he said. "But how could this possibly be the case since Cuba has declared that it was not abiding by the embargo," Kawar said, "voicing suspicion that the Egyptian authorities are holding up the two ships."

The situation appeared worse Thursday when Tanga, a floating storage grain tanker which has been docked at the port since 1984, was ordered back by its Norwegian owners. Tanga served as a storage for Iraqi-bound grain supplies. "It had not more goods to store," said a port official.

Shipping executives were angry at cargo owner's decision to stop shipments of food supplies to

Iraq. "This is against international law," said a shipping agent.

Tourism, another major source of income to Aqaba, has also suffered. Hotel managers report a 20 per cent drop in reservations. A hotel manager showed journalists telexes from European tourists cancelling reservations. "In view of the explosive political situation, we have to cancel our reservations this year. See you next year," a telex said.

Despite the gloomy mood, residents and workers express an air of defiance against the American threats.

"If the embargo takes place, I will volunteer to fight alongside the Iraqi soldiers," a Jordanian container driver said to the cheers and loud applause of fellow drivers at a resthouse near the main Al Irbad transit container parking lot.

## King

(Continued from page 1)

message from Saddam, the King replied: "I am not talking on behalf of anyone in the area, but for myself as a person who has been in a position of responsibility over the last 38 years and with the interest and concern that this crisis hopefully will begin to deescalate and we might find solutions to the many problems that are there now."

"I am concerned as any in the area. I have tried my utmost to see what could be done initially within an Arab context and I will continue to do my best to bring a resolution to this problem."

On the U.N. sanctions he said: "I believe there are certain categories or areas where the situation is unclear."

Asked if he was hopeful the crisis can be solved, the King said: "I suppose one has to have hope. Without hope you can't get anywhere. The dangers are such that it's unthinkable to contemplate the idea of giving up."

Khalid Mustafa Qanah  
Vancouver, Canada.



## Arab Financial Services conducts normal business

BAHRAIN (R) — Arab Financial Services (AFS), the Arab World's largest issuer of travellers' cheques, said Thursday its business was unaffected by the Gulf crisis.

An AFS statement sent to Reuters said "travellers cheques, payment cards and wholesale foreign banknote supplies are all fully supported and function as usual."

"People are encouraged to use travellers cheques and cards for settling bills as a way of securing their funds when abroad," Ken Dubbins, assistant general manager, said.

Many people, fearing the crisis caused by Iraq's takeover of Kuwait might extend to the Gulf, drew thousands of dinars from banks last week causing cash problems.

After the deployment of thousands of U.S., European and Arab troops in Saudi Arabia and an armada of foreign warships in the Gulf, AFS has returned to the financial sector.

"There was considerable demand from banks and exchange houses for currency banknotes last week but this has subsided now and is beginning to return to what we would normally expect at this season," Abul Hamid, manager wholesale banknotes, said.

AFS is owned by 57 Arab financial institutions.

## IMF to study effects of Gulf crisis on Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt and the IMF will discuss an expected decrease in Egypt's foreign currency income as a result of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis and how it will affect the economic reform programme, senior economic experts have said.

The experts said Egyptian officials were presently preparing reports on the expectations of a decrease in the country's foreign currency resources to be presented during talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the next few days.

Egyptians working in the oil-rich Gulf area are the country's number one source of foreign currency, providing \$3.5 billion in remittances in 1988 — the latest figures available.

Egypt has more than three million expatriates, most of them in the Gulf region. There are one million in Iraq alone, and 200,000 in Kuwait.

Since Iraq invaded Kuwait

Aug. 2nd, thousands of Egyptians have fled Iraq and Kuwait, and others are also returning from neighbouring Gulf states which fear attacks from President Saddam Hussein. No figure has been compiled yet on the expected extent of the loss from the return of the expatriates.

The second and third foreign currency earners are tourism and the Suez Canal. The economic experts, who were quoted by the Middle East News Agency (MENA), expressed fears that the economic blockade on Iraq and Kuwait and the increasing tensions in the whole region are likely to affect both.

The Suez Canal, a waterway which links the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, brought in \$1.3 billion in 1989. MENA quoted a canal official as saying that so far, the rate of ships passing through the waterway has not been affected by the Gulf tensions.

## Romanian imports soar

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian imports have soared this year after an almost total ban under executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, an opposition newspaper said, quoting Trade and Tourism Minister Constantin Fotia.

The evening newspaper Dreptatea quoted Fotia as saying that in the first six months of 1990 imports of food and consumer goods totalled \$689.1 million compared with only \$3.3 million in the first half of 1989.

Ceausescu, toppled in a popular uprising in December, banned virtually all consumer imports as part of his obsession with wiping out the country's foreign debt.

Dreptatea, published by the National Peasants' Party, quoted Fotia as saying that while imports had soared, exports had plummeted in recent months.

He said exports in hard currency were only 56 per cent of those in the first half of last year, and sales in non-convertible East Bloc currencies were 60 per cent of their 1989 value.

Romania's hard currency trade deficit in the first seven months of this year totalled \$693 million, while its shortfall with East European countries amounted to 805 million roubles (\$1.41 billion at the official rate).

Fotia said exports of food, artificial fibres and fertilisers had been cut back because they were needed at home.

Imports in convertible currency were 157.2 per cent higher last month than in July 1989, he added.

He said imports of food and consumer goods now constituted 16.3 per cent of all imports, compared with only 3.3 per cent under Ceausescu.

## Consumers warned of investment scams tied to Middle East crisis

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumers should beware of con artists seeking to exploit the crisis in the Gulf to peddle bogus oil, gas and precious metals investments, a regulators group warned Tuesday.

The North American Securities Administration Association (NASAA) has issued an investor bulletin to warn small investors about the latest scams tied to events.

"Today, the swindlers' best friend is a headline or television news flash out of the Mideast that threatens a disruption of oil supplies to the United States," said Susan Bryant, president of NASAA. The group is an association of state government regulators that periodically alerts the public to the latest twists in consumer related securities fraud.

Con artists previously have seized on the scam potential of Mideast turmoil, including the 1973-74 Arab oil embargo, the 1979 Iranian revolution and the tanker war during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, said Bryant.

The NASAA bulletin warned that crooks, through high pressure telephone sales from temporary "boiler room" operations, encourage investors to buy into oil partnerships for \$5,000, \$10,000 or more.

To sweeten the deal they claim

## Turkey may ask World Bank for loan to offset sanctions

ANKARA (R) — Turkey is likely to discuss with the World Bank next month a possible fresh loan to help it weather the economic cost of enforcing U.N. sanctions against neighbouring Iraq, a senior treasury official has said.

"Right now, neither the amount of any new loan nor the timing have been determined. We expect it will be discussed at regular meetings with the bank in September," the Turkish official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

Turkey joined U.N. sanctions against Baghdad and Kuwait Aug. 7, including cutting its end of two major Iraqi oil export pipelines, over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Turkey has stopped two ships carrying food for Iraq from unloading, a senior official in the southern Turkish port of Mersin has said.

Banking sources say Turkey, which relied on Iraq for 63 per cent of its oil imports last year, could lose at least \$3 billion a year as a result of the embargo, including nearly \$300 million in revenues and other charges from the pipelines.

Turkey bought 11.9 million tonnes of oil from Iraq in 1989 and so far this year has imported 5.5 million tonnes of a projected 7.5 million tonnes, oil officials said.

Turkey's 1989 exports to Iraq totalled \$445 million, 3.8 per cent of its total exports. Imports were worth \$1.65 billion, 10.5 per cent of the total.

Exports to Kuwait totalled \$62 million last year. Import figures were not immediately available.

Officials said Turkey signed credit agreements with the World Bank in the year to last July for a total of \$326 million. New credits of about \$1 billion, excluding any special arrangements, were likely to be signed in 1990.

Kuwaiti officials have indicated they also might help Turkey financially to offset losses caused by the embargo.

## Nikkei fails to keep gain

TOKYO (AP) — Uncertainty over developments in the Middle East sent stock prices plunging and nudged the U.S. dollar up slightly against the Japanese yen in Tokyo Thursday, traders said.

The 225-share Nikkei stock average ended the day at 27,549.76, down 562.68 points, or 2.0 per cent, from its closing Wednesday. It had gained 1,439.59 points, or 5.4 per cent, Wednesday in its third-largest single-day surge.

Traders had attributed Wednesday's gain to optimism over news that His Majesty King Hussein was travelling to Washington with an undisclosed message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Yesterday, people became hopeful about the Hussein-Bush meeting, but today, nothing new came out about it," said Hiroshi Arano, an analyst for Nippon Kangyo Kakumaru Securities.

Tokyo traders also were watching how New York would react to the outcome of the meeting, he said.

Trading was light early Thursday and slowed down as the day wore on, said Chip Mesics, an equity salesman for Kidder Peabody International. About half of the volume of 300 million shares on the market's first section was traded in the morning, and more than half of the day's volume was index arbitrage trading, he said.

"There are all kinds of good reasons not to be too interested in the market right now," Mesics said, citing market uncertainty over money supply figures, due for release Friday afternoon, as one strong reason.

Traders said other influences on the market included uncertainty over how world events might change over the upcoming weekend, the vacation season, beautiful weather, and the high school baseball tournament — a summer obsession in Japan.

## U.S. wants Europe, Japan to share cost of Gulf operation

WASHINGTON (R) — Pinched by financial problems at home, the United States is asking Japan and Europe to share the cost of sending U.S. troops to the Gulf — now running at around \$7,000 a minute and rising steadily.

The Japanese, according to President George Bush, have already said they are willing to pay and the West Germans can expect to be asked to contribute to the costs of defending the sources of Gulf oil on which their flourishing export industry depends.

Defence officials say nearly 60,000 troops are already in the Gulf area and ultimately the force could swell to more than 200,000. Estimates of the cost of the troops vary, with the most conservative figure for those forces already in place put at roughly \$10 million a day — or nearly \$7,000 a minute.

The Washington-based Centre for Defence Information, a private group of former U.S. military officers, last week put at \$14.6 million the daily cost of 50,000 troops, 30 warships and 350 aircraft.

"These are just extra costs," said the centre's David Isenberg. "They do not include salaries and other standing expenses such as training, medical care or housing."

A force of 250,000, the centre estimates, would cost \$56.2 million a day.

But in a country trying to come to grips with a serious budget deficit that distorts the economy, the costs of facing off against Iraq's troops in Kuwait are not viewed as cigarette money.

After warning Tuesday that the U.S. budget deficit threatened the economic well-being of the United States, Bush made clear he expects other countries to share the financial burden of the Gulf operation.

The United States also expects Saudi Arabia to help underwrite the cost of deploying troops on its territory to deter the Iraqis from striking across the border with Kuwait.

"I think the Saudis will do their part in helping out along the way," Bush said. "I'm confident of that."

## China tightens quality control on exports

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese authorities are waging a sometimes losing battle in their effort to improve the quality of goods made for export, official reports say.

While some improvements have been recorded since new quality control and inspection laws were enacted in August 1989, the record of many Chinese exporters is still dismal, the reports say.

Some cases are so severe that they resemble sabotage.

In one case, 74.2 per cent of 426,000 metres of cloth produced by the Taiyuan Cotton Textile Mill in northern Shanxi province was found to be of poor quality. Rotten apples were found wrapped inside the cloth, much of which had rotted, the China Daily has reported.

A separate report in the weekly Beijing Review said the mill's export licence had been cancelled.

In another case, eight kilograms of rocks and iron were found in a shipment of meat from Shanxi province. The meat was rotten when it arrived in West Germany, the China Daily said.

Vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, Gu Yongjiang, ordered an investigation into the cases, the reports said.

Gu also said the trade ministry was trying to pinpoint who was responsible for failing to deliver

## Iraq said to depend 80% on food imports

PARIS (R) — Iraq, target of a world trade embargo, depends on imports for about 80 per cent of its food, French officials say.

Seven countries provided four fifths of its imports in 1988, with the United States accounting for more than one third of the sales, according to an analysis by the French Foreign Trade Centre, which is part of the finance ministry.

While opportunities to smuggle goods into Iraq exist, the sheer quantities needed make it unlikely that contraband will fully satisfy the country's appetite, commodity traders said.

Most countries appear to be abiding by the sanctions. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein called on the Iraqi people Sunday to eat less and wear their clothes longer to beat U.N. sanctions.

Yemen's foreign minister said Monday that his country stood ready to help Iraq cope with the impact of the sanctions and would not allow Iraqis to starve.

Brazil's foreign minister, Francisco Rezek, said Monday that his country was studying the possibility of sending food to Iraq on humanitarian grounds. The U.N. ban on trade exempted exports of food needed for humanitarian reasons, Rezek said.

A report in January by the

French embassy in Baghdad said Iraq spent \$1.8 billion on imported food in 1988, the latest year for which reliable statistics were available.

Iraqi imports in 1988 were almost 47 per cent higher than in the previous year, despite a move by Baghdad in March 1987 to boost self-sufficiency by privatising agriculture, it said.

Eight products accounted for over three quarters of Iraq's food imports in 1988: Wheat, frozen beef, sugar, powdered milk, eggs for hatching, milk for infants' food, processed cheese and frozen poultry, according to the report.

According to the U.S. Agriculture Department, Iraq had been expected to import 2.9 million tonnes of wheat and wheat flour, and 1.2 million tonnes of coarse grains in 1990/91. Its rice imports were forecast to total 550,000 tonnes in 1990.

The world's biggest wheat exporters are the United States, Canada, Australia, Argentina and the European Community.

Iraq's leading suppliers of food in 1988 were the United States (\$695 million), Brazil (\$170 million), Australia (\$166 million), Canada (\$153 million), France (\$108 million), Turkey (\$100 mil-

lion) and Ireland (\$89 million).

The United States sold the most diversified list of exports, and had a near monopoly in supplies of rice, maize, animal feed and vegetable oils, the report said.

"The Iraqi food industry is therefore in many cases dependent on American commodity supplies," it said.

Commodity traders said that although supplies could flow through Turkey, Ankara appeared to be barring lorries bound for Baghdad, and that it was unlikely that large quantities of goods would pass through Iran.

Given the restricted number of routes by which smuggled goods were likely to enter Iraq, the United States would have little difficulty monitoring the flow of smuggled supplies, the traders said.

"It may be hard to see a cargo of 2,000 tonnes of sugar going through Turkey," one trader said. "But large cereal shipments, like a petrol tanker, can be easily spotted."

Traders said they were paying close attention to imports by Jordan and Turkey to determine whether some supplies were being passed through to Iraq.

## Confusion reigns over oil supply during Gulf crisis

LONDON (Agencies) — The oil market is confused and increasingly uncertain about how the world will cope with reduced oil supplies caused by the Gulf crisis, traders and analysts said Thursday.

Iraq's takeover of Kuwait two weeks ago and the subsequent United Nations trade embargo have effectively removed about four million barrels of oil a day from world supplies.

"It's a whipsaw market," said one weary U.S. trader. "I can't wait for a return to normal."

The confusion is at petrol pumps where oil companies are raising or lowering prices in rapid succession.

The world's two most widely traded crude oils — Britain's North Sea Brent and West Texas Intermediate from the United States — are changing hands at more than \$26 a barrel compared with around \$15 before the takeover of Kuwait.

"Traders are reluctant to sell even at these numbers because they are afraid they may have to buy back supplies at a higher level," said one London market player.

But traders said prices have not yet gone through the roof because of expectations that the other 11 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will agree to raise output to make up for the shortfall.

They said markets were further confused because of reports that Saudi Arabia, the world's largest exporter, is actually cutting deliveries of its crude to Japanese and U.S. contract customers by about 15 per cent.

But some analysts said Saudi Arabia was just trying to share out its exports to supply the exiled Kuwait Petroleum Corp and other allies suffering from the loss of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil.

The 13-nation OPEC is split over calls from Saudi Arabia and Venezuela for an emergency meeting.

Nigeria said a majority of OPEC members are against the idea. Ecuador has cautioned the organisation against playing politics in the Gulf. And OPEC countries such as Indonesia want evidence that the industrialised nations are drawing on record domestic oil stocks before OPEC considers any rise in output.

But OPEC sources said Saudi Arabia was determined to prevent the kind of oil price shocks that hit the world in the 1970s and might raise output unilaterally, failing any OPEC agreement.

Huge OPEC oil price rises in the 1970s backfired when the West sharply reduced its reliance on the group's oil through conservation measures and the use of alternative energy and sources of crude.

Signs the West is starting to utilise stocks occurred when

American Petroleum Institute figures showed that for the first time in months there was a big drawdown of almost 10 million barrels from U.S. crude and gasoline stocks.

Other knock-on effects of the Gulf crisis can be seen in Indonesia which has cut exports to supply its own needs after the reduction of Gulf supplies.

And China has announced it is cutting exports to Japan, where demand is strong for the light crude oil needed to power air conditioners during the current hot summer weather.

Meanwhile, the Bush administration wants to use the Gulf crisis — and resulting gasoline price increases — to push for oil drilling in an Alaskan wildlife refuge and other environmentally sensitive areas.

"Once Congress gets back, the (Interior) Department and others will try to make a strong case for Congress to act in allowing exploration of the coastal plain" of the Arctic national wildlife refuge, said Tom Derocro, chief of public affairs for the Minerals Management Service.

The White House also hopes the Mideast turmoil and increasing gas prices will galvanize public opinion.

"Now that people are having to pay higher prices at the gas pump, there's a heightened awareness of the issue," said Steven Goldstein.

## British wages rise in blow to government inflation fight

LONDON (R) — Average earnings of British workers rose 10 per cent in the year to June despite government appeals to employers to hold down wage costs to fight stubbornly high inflation, official figures showed Thursday.

In another blow to the Conservative government, trailing the opposition Labour Party in opinion polls, unemployment increased by a provisional, seasonally adjusted 10,900 in July to 1.63 million or 5.7 per cent of the workforce.

It was the fourth consecutive month that unemployment lines lengthened in Britain.

Both earnings, up from 9.75 per cent in May, and the increase in unemployment, which rose by 6,700 in June, were above market expectations.

"Negotiators should remember that unrealistic (pay) settlements put people's job at risk and can also destroy the chances for future jobs growth," said Robert Jackson, parliamentary under-secretary of state at the Department of Employment.

Economist David Owen of London merchant bank Kleinwort Benson estimated wage settlements would continue to show nine to 10 per cent increases until early next year.

The sale does not include any of Esso's crude oil and gas exploration and production operations. It also does not include Esso's interest in the coal, mineral, shale, oil or chemical industries.

## Strong franc keeps Nestle sales stagnant

VEVEY, Switzerland (R) — Nestle S.A., the world's largest food company, has said that a strong Swiss franc and depressed coffee prices had caused sales to stagnate in the first half of the year.

Consolidated group turnover was barely changed at 22.7 billion Swiss francs (\$16.9 billion) in the first six months, compared with 22.8 billion francs (\$17 billion) in the first half of 1989.

A strong franc tends to weigh on Swiss-based Nestle's sales by making turnover in its main foreign markets worth less when translated back into its home currency.

The Swiss franc's strength against a number of important currencies had the effect of reducing sales by 12 per cent in the first six months.

Price rises in countries with high inflation could only partially counterbalance the loss.

Nestle, famous for its coffee and chocolate, also had to cut prices for its products in a number of important markets as commodity prices, especially for coffee, dropped.

It said it expected consolidated sales to improve during the second half of the year, adding its generally positive business trend should be more than compensated for currency factors.

But exchange-rate fluctuations made a reliable forecast for full-year sales and profit impossible now, it added.

Nestle will publish its semi-annual profit and loss accounts and balance sheet in September.

Its group net profit rose to 2.41 billion francs (\$1.79 billion) last year from 2.06 billion (\$1.53 billion) in 1988.

Sales rose 21.6 per cent last year to 48.04 billion francs (\$35.73 billion).

## Cambodia devalues riel

BANGKOK (R) — Cambodia, struggling to rebuild its economy amid war and international isolation, has devalued its currency to 460 riel to the dollar from 360 as fixed in May, the official SPK news agency said.

No reason was given for the order, issued in a recent communique by the National Bank of Cambodia. The SPK despatch, monitored in Bangkok, also gave new rates for 10 other currencies.

The dollar was fetching 480 riel on the black market in Phnom Penh two weeks ago.

Cambodia's economy, virtually obliterated by the Khmer Rouge rule of 1975-79, has shown signs

of improvement under free market policies introduced by Prime Minister Hun Sen.

However, inflation is running about 200 per cent and the government faces cuts in aid from Eastern Europe.

The country has little industry or long-term investment, and the economic embargo levied by most of the world on the Vietnamese-backed government means it has a limited market for its goods, foreign analysts said.

The riel was fixed at 218 to the dollar last November.

The new rates set the riel at 750 to the pound sterling and 80.70 to the French franc.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Thursday, August 16, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	656.0	660.0	
Pound Sterling	1245.9	1253.4	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Thursday.			
	One sterling	One U.S. dollar	
U.S. dollars	1.8940/50		
Canadian dollar	1.1440/45		
Deutsche marks	1.5655/60		
Dutch guilders	1.7630/40		
Swiss francs	1.3045/55		
Belgian francs	32.18/23		
French francs	5.2550/2600		
Italian lire	1151/1152		
Japanese yen	147.60/70		
Swedish crowns	5.7625/75		
Norwegian crowns	6.0685/0735		
Danish crowns	5.9800/50		
One ounce of gold	400.00/50		

## Esso Australia sells refining, retailing operations to Mobil

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Esso Australia has decided to withdraw from all petrol refining and retailing in Australia by selling out to one of its major competitors, Mobil Oil Australia Ltd.

The deal, which analysts value at 500 million dollars (\$400 million), involves Esso's 35 per cent stake in two major oil refineries and up to 300 petrol stations.

The purchase comes amid uncertainty in the petroleum industry as oil prices continue to surge due to rising tensions in the Middle East.

But Mobil chairman and managing director Dick Leonard said the deal was taken with a long-term view that was not altered by the Kuwait-Iraq problems.

The deal could result in layoffs. Leonard said Esso employees would continue as usual until the end of the year, when Mobil would review its staffing levels.

Esso is one of Australia's largest oil explorers and producers, operating the Bass Strait oil

fields, which it owns in joint venture with BHP Petroleum.

Shell Australia will remain the leader in the Australian gasoline market with a 25 per cent share, while B.P. and Mobil each will have 21 per cent. Caltex 17 per cent and Ampol 16 per cent.

Leonard said the deal would ensure the ongoing investment needed to keep the oil industry at peak efficiency and productivity levels.

Under the terms of the agreement, Mobil will move to full ownership of petroleum refineries (Australia) PTY. Ltd. Fuel refineries at Altona in Victoria state and Port Stanvac in South Australia state.

Mobil will also buy Esso's wholesale network, five terminals, a product tanker, and aviation business.

Leonard said the purchase represented about a 50 per cent increase in Mobil's volume of business and would lead to a "substantial" increase in profits.

Mobil proposes to fund the purchase through internal sources, possibly involving equity input and long-term debt-raising, which would be done through its parent company, Mobil Oil Corp. of the United States.

Esso chairman and managing director John Schubert said Esso accepted Mobil's proposal because the price, which was not disclosed, reflected a premium over the ongoing value of businesses.

Schubert denied analysts' suggestions that the deal was part of an assets sell-off by Esso's U.S. parent company, Exxon Inc., to finance compensation for the Exxon Valdez oil spill of Alaska last year.

The sale does not include any of Esso's crude oil and gas exploration and production operations. It also does not include Esso's interest in the coal, mineral, shale, oil or chemical industries.



## Ethnic strife escalates in S. Africa: Five killed, 55 injured in Soweto

By Barry Renfrew  
The Associated Press

SOWETO, South Africa — Scores of armed men attacked terrified passengers at a train station Thursday, killing at least five people as the death toll from five days of faction fighting soared to 148, police said.

Police and witnesses said the fighting between Zulus and Xhosas spread Thursday to the sprawling black township of Soweto when a war band of Zulus attacked people at a railway station. Zulus armed with spears, clubs and knives pulled terrified people from the platform, hacking several to death, witnesses and hospital officials said.

Scattered fighting erupted later in the area, claiming more lives. Police said 55 people were injured in the Soweto fighting Thursday.

Heavily-armed police in trucks and vans roared through the area at high speed for hours, randomly firing tear gas shells at groups of blacks. Youths who tried to block roads with burning tyres and rocks were dispersed by tear gas.

Children as young as 10 were seen with sticks.

At one point, dozens of police fired tear gas to disperse several thousand armed Zulus and Xhosas who confronted each other after the killings at the station, witnesses said.

"The Zulus are attacking the people and killing everyone," said one man, who refused to be identified.

Journalists were made to leave the area by armed police. Police Captain John Paxton claimed journalists were helping incite violence, but refused to provide evidence.

A police spokesman, who declined to be named, said other townships hit by fighting earlier in the week were quiet Thursday. Police in armoured vehicles were roaming streets to prevent violence, he said.

Besides the 148 people killed since Sunday in four townships around Johannesburg, police said hundreds of people had been injured, but they had no overall figures. Police also reported arrests, but declined to give any figures.

The fighting pits mostly Xhosa supporters of the African National Congress against the conserva-

tive Zulu Inkatha movement. The independent South African Press Association said the township fighting was the worst in many years.

"We are fighting for our nation. We are fighting to protect Zulus only," said a combatant who appeared on government-run television late Wednesday.

Armed bands of Zulus attacked several shantytowns Wednesday in Thokoza, Kaitheong and Vosloorus townships. The bands set fire to houses and attacked fleeing residents with spears, machete-like pangas, knives and other weapons.

One resident, who did not want to be named, said he saw "more than 2,000 Zulus armed with guns, spears, butcher's knives and axes attack a squatter camp at crossroads in Kaitheong."

"I saw mothers with babies on their backs running past my house ... I didn't know what was happening and then I saw the Zulus," he said.

Witnesses said the Zulus searched houses, hunting out and attacking Xhosa residents. Some residents tried to flee to a nearby swamp, but were chased down and hacked to death. Other peo-

ple were burned to death in their blazing houses.

Hundreds of people whose homes were burned gathered for safety in large groups Wednesday night with the remains of their possessions. The South African Red Cross said it was trying to set up refugee camps to house them.

Police seized hundreds of knives, spears and other weapons and reported finding a chest containing AK-47 assault rifles and grenades. A large police truck piled high with confiscated weapons was seen leaving Kaitheong.

The fighting started Sunday after a minor clash.

Battles between the ANC and Inkatha began spilling into the townships around Johannesburg in recent weeks. Violence between the two groups had been concentrated in Natal Province in the past.

The two groups oppose apartheid, but are divided by leadership rivalry, tribal loyalty and differing visions of a future South Africa.

More than 5,000 blacks have died since 1985 in fighting between Inkatha and ANC supporters in Natal.

## Gorbachev breaks off holiday to attend crucial economic talks

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is breaking off his holiday to attend crucial talks in Moscow on economic reform, the official TASS news agency said on Thursday.

TASS quoted Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin as saying Gorbachev would return to the Soviet capital from the Crimea in the next few days.

Yeltsin on Wednesday broke off a tour of Russia, biggest of the 15 Soviet republics, saying "turmoil" was developing in talks on transferring the Soviet economy to a free-market system after decades of state planning under old-style Communism.

Yeltsin, demanding more radical steps towards a market economy, reached agreement with Gorbachev last month to create a working group including officials of the Russian republic and the Soviet government to

draft a joint plan.

The group is due to present a final draft on September 1 for discussion by both parliaments, but Yeltsin hinted during a speech in the Urals city of Sverdlovsk of Tuesday night that problems had arisen.

He said he was returning for a day because of turmoil in the working group.

TASS said Gorbachev, whose relations with Yeltsin have long been strained, "has decided to interrupt his holiday and return to Moscow to take a direct part in the drafting of a concept for transfer to a market economy."

It gave no details and made no mention of any differences in the joint group.

Establishment of a market economy is possibly the most difficult task facing Gorbachev. One previous reform programme presented by Prime Minister Nikolai

Ryzhkov three months ago was

effectively rejected by parliament after planned food price rises sparked panic buying in Moscow.

The Soviet leader badly needs the support of Yeltsin, by far the most popular politician in Russia, to push through an alternative programme.

Formation of the joint commission headed by Gorbachev and Yeltsin raised hopes of agreement on radical measures to pull the Soviet economy out of its stagnation.

Even in the Soviet capital, shop shelves are largely empty of food and consumer goods.

Skirmishes have broken out in several cities over cigarette shortages, aviation has been disrupted by fuel rationing and the grain harvest, possibly the best in Soviet history, is threatened by a shortage of petrol for trucks and harvesters.

## West Africa to demand ceasefire from Liberian rebel leader

FREETOWN (R) — West African leaders will demand that Liberian rebels leader Charles Taylor agree to an immediate ceasefire in his country's civil war at a meeting in Gambia on Thursday or Friday, diplomatic sources said on Wednesday night.

They will also make clear to Taylor that if he refuses a ceasefire, a West African peace-keeping force assembling in Sierra Leone will move into Liberia anyway.

Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), which controls nearly all of Liberia except for the centre and northern suburbs of the capital Monrovia, has so far refused a ceasefire and has opposed foreign intervention.

"If Taylor wants an agreement he will have to cease fire," one senior West African diplomat told Reuters.

"What is certain is that the heads of state have decided that the force is going in there, anyway," he added.

Five West African states are contributing to the 2,500-strong peace-keeping force, formed under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The sources said only two of their leaders — Gambian President Sir Dawda Jawara and Ghanaian head of state Jerry Rawlings — were expected to meet the Liberian rebel leader in the Gambian capital Banjul.

Nigerian leader Ibrahim Babangida, seen as sympathetic to Liberia's embattled President Samuel Doe, had refused to meet Taylor, the sources said.

The presidents of Guinea and Sierra Leone, the other two countries contributing to the ECOWAS peace-keeping force, were also expected to stay away from the meeting, they added.

However, the head of the force, officially dubbed the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), General Arnold Quainoo, flew from the Sierra Leone capital of Freetown to Banjul on Wednesday to meet Taylor.

## Zia's son bidding to be Bhutto's rival

By Raja Asghar  
Reuters

ISLAMABAD — Two years after the death of Pakistani military ruler Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, his son, Ejaz Ul Haq, is bidding to be the main political rival to sacked Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The capital Islamabad and the nearby town of Rawalpindi were filled with large portraits of General Zia and banners praising his 11-year rule on the eve of the second anniversary on Friday of his death in a mysterious plane crash.

Ejaz, 38, aiming to unite right wing forces to revive his father's Islamic legacy, views elections in October as a contest with Bhutto, whom President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed last week as the first elected woman leader of a Muslim nation.

"If Benazir Bhutto directly comes in the elections, it will be a direct confrontation between her and me," he told Reuters in an interview on Wednesday. "All

## South Korean students attack U.S. military base

SEOUL (R) — About 50 South Korean radical students tossed petrol bombs and rocks at an American military compound in Seoul on Thursday, but apparently caused no damage or injuries, witnesses said.

The students also attacked police with firebombs and clubs and chased away an outnumbered patrol force posted nearby, the witnesses said. The students ran away when police reinforcements arrived.

A U.S. military spokesman confirmed the attack had taken place at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters in cen-

tral Seoul but gave no details.

The engineers' compound is about three kilometres from the main U.S. army base in Seoul's Yongsan area.

The main base was the target of a demonstration on Tuesday when four dissidents drove through the open main gate and staged a 10-minute protest before being arrested.

There were no arrests in Thursday's attack, a witness said.

The dissidents demand that U.S. troops and their nuclear weapons be withdrawn from South Korea, and that American

forces loose their grip on the approach to Panmunjom, the border hamlet which is the only crossing point along the 255 kilometres North-South Korean border.

U.S. troops, now numbering about 43,000, have been stationed in South Korea since the end of World War II, and their presence has been an issue among South Korea's dissidents and radical students.

The radical students scattered leaflets which demanded a peace treaty with North Korea to replace the armistice agreement which ended hostilities in 1953.

## E. German Social Democrats threaten to leave coalition

WEST BERLIN (AP) — East Germany's Social Democrats on Thursday renewed threats to leave the struggling government coalition, a day after four cabinet ministers were sacked.

Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere is facing mounting threats to his government, which is supposed to guide the country into a merger with rich West Germany.

Wolfgang Thierse, head of the coalition partner Social Democrats (SPD), said he envisions his party pulling out as early as next week. SPD officials have threatened to leave de Maiziere's government several times in recent weeks.

"I can no longer envision working further with this prime minister, whose actions are becoming ever more adventurous," Thierse said.

He told West Berlin's radio station SFB he expects the decision as soon as the SPD members

of parliament return from vacation.

De Maiziere has come under severe criticism for allegedly dealing behind the backs of the SPD in an attempt to speed up unification.

The prime minister also is facing a national economic catastrophe.

East Germany's deepening economic crisis forced de Maiziere into ousting the four ministers from his quarrelsome cabinet.

De Maiziere announced the dismissals of Finance Minister Walter Romberg and Agriculture Minister Peter Pollack at a hastily called news conference a Wednesday evening.

Also gone are Economics Minister Gerhard Pohl and Justice Minister Kurt Wuensche.

De Maiziere cited errors in the negotiation of the treaty that governs the terms of the economic merger of the two German states

as one reason for the dismissals.

He was not specific, although he did say that distribution of funds from West Germany to restructure East Germany's economy was proceeding too slowly.

The two countries merged their economies. East Germany introduced the powerful West German mark as its currency on July 1, a major step in the unification process.

But the rapid shift from a centrally planned to a free market system has been felt painfully throughout the East German economy.

Pollack's ouster was announced just hours after angry farmers pelted him with eggs at a mass rally in downtown East Berlin.

De Maiziere said Pollack's dismissal was not related to the nationwide farm protests. The prime minister said Pollack failed to design a programme to restructure the agricultural system.

## U.S. Navy to evacuate 400 Indians from Liberia

FREETOWN (R) — The U.S. Navy operating off the coast of Liberia will evacuate about 400 Indian nationals from the war-torn capital Monrovia, U.S. officials said on Thursday.

The Indians will be flown by helicopter on Friday to the four U.S. warships that have already evacuated about 300 other foreigners from Liberia over the last 10 days.

Most have been flown from the U.S. embassy compound in Monrovia, where rebel groups are battling to overthrow President Samuel Doe, to the ships and then ferried to Freetown, capital of neighbouring Sierra Leone.

Another group of 105 people drove in convoy out of the city and were evacuated from the rebel-held port of Buchanan, 120 kilometres to the southeast.

They had sought refuge in the West German, Spanish and Swiss embassies, which fell behind the lines of Charles Taylor's main-stream rebel movement, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), in recent fighting.

The U.S. officials did not say where the Indian nationals had

gathered, nor from which point they would be flown out. India has a consulate, but no embassy in Liberia.

But Indian community sources in Freetown said most of the Indians being evacuated had taken refuge in the Indian school in Monrovia, although they were not sure which rebel faction controlled the area where it is located.

A small breakaway rebel faction led by Prince Johnson is also fighting in Monrovia to overthrow the government.

Two Indian diplomats were flying to Sierra Leone on Thursday night to supervise the evacuation, the Indian sources added.

A convoy of 40 people, including the last German diplomats, left Monrovia on Wednesday heading overland to Ivory Coast.

The convoy also contained people from the Egyptian and Moroccan embassies, but reports from Liberia said Taylor's NPFL had prevented some 60 refugees, mostly Guineans, from proceeding to the border.

Taylor is opposed to a planned

intervention in the eight-month-old civil war by a West African peacekeeping force assembling in Sierra Leone and diplomats said his rebel movement appeared to be holding the West Africans as hostages.

Evacuees from Monrovia said there were up to 2,000 Nigerian refugees trapped at the Nigerian embassy in Monrovia.

There are also several thousand people from other West African countries stranded in the battle-torn city.

Taylor, whose rebel movement now controls most of Liberia, was expected to fly to Gambia on Thursday or Friday for talks with West African leaders on how the 2,500-strong multinational peacekeeping force might be deployed to impose a ceasefire with the agreement of all sides.

Doe and Johnson have already agreed to the peacekeeping force's intervention, but Taylor still opposes it.

"Taylor is the only bone that is still sticking in our throat," one Sierra Leonean official told Reuters.

## Russia, Lithuania sign trade treaty

MOSCOW (AP) — Lithuania and the Russian Federation signed a trade and economic cooperation treaty which bypasses the central government, TASS reported Thursday.

The treaty is the first of its kind between two Soviet republics. Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin had offered last month to negotiate a range of political, economic and social treaties with other republics. Both Lithuania and Russia have declared they

want more autonomy from the central government.

The treaty was signed in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius on Wednesday by the republic's Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene and Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev.

The independent news agency Postfactum said prices of goods to be traded between the two republics will initially be negotiated by the buyers and sellers, but will gradually move to world prices.

Under the Soviet Union's command economy, all resources and products now are simply handed over to the central government at prices set by Soviet bureaucrats. They then redistribute everything around the country.

TASS said issues standing in the way of even closer economic cooperation between Lithuania and Russia include the legal question of who owns natural resources on the huge Russian territory.

## Sri Lanka arms Tamil civilians

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka said on Thursday it is giving guns to hand-picked Tamil civilians to protect their eastern villages from reprisal killings by Muslims.

The move follows the massacres of scores of Muslims in a series of attacks on Muslim villages and mosques by Tamil rebels in the past two weeks.

"There have been reprisals on the part of the Muslim community. A gang of armed Muslims is going on the rampage as a result of the killings of Muslims," said Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne.

"Our armed forces and police are attempting to track them. I have given instructions to treat them as terrorists and anyone attacking Muslims will be brought to book," Wijeratne told a news conference.

Muslim civilians were given arms earlier this week to protect their villages from rebel attacks. Hundreds of civil "home guards" have also been armed.

The defence ministry secretary, General Cyril Ranatunga, said 682 Sinhalese, Muslim and Tamil civilians had been killed since the Liberation of Tamil Eelam began their latest offensive on June 11. Military authorities have said the Tigers, fighting to set up an independent homeland in the northeast, were responsible for the killings of the Muslims and Sinhalese. The Tigers have denied the charge.

Wijeratne said the government would give the same degree of protection to villagers from all three communities, and appealed for people to remain calm and exercise restraint.

He said the Tigers were attacking Sinhalese and Muslims in the east to divert the attention of security forces battling the rebels in the north.

Ranatunga said 331 security force members had been killed and 801 wounded in action since the Tigers began their offensive in June.

He said 299 policemen were also killed and 352 were missing and presumed killed by the Tigers, who overrun 30 police stations and seized 600 policemen in their first wave of attacks.

Ranatunga said the security forces had confirmed that 1,000 Tigers have been killed and 1,700 wounded since the fighting began.

### WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

#### China carries out second nuclear test

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — China conducted a nuclear weapons test Thursday, the second this year after a break of nearly two years, Swedish monitors reported. "This was an unusually strong explosion by Chinese standards," said Mats Gustavsson, an official at Sweden's defence research establishment. The agency's Hagfors Observatory picked up signals indicating a yield of 50-200 kilotons. The observatory said in a statement the underground bomb was detonated at 0500 GMT at the Lop Nor test site in Xinjiang province. China's last previous test was May 26 and the yield was estimated at less than 40 kilotons. That explosion was the first since Sept. 29, 1988, when a bomb of less than 10 kilotons was tested. China is the only nuclear nation that makes no announcements about its tests. Relatively little is known about its nuclear capabilities.

#### FAO calls for global action to save forests

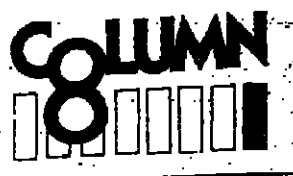
NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on Thursday said it was time to stop destroying the world's forests — for their own sake and that of the countries that depend on them. "I am alarmed at the unprecedented speed by which many of the poor countries are losing their natural wealth," FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma said in a speech read for him at a meeting on the environment in Nairobi. He appealed for an international convention on conservation and management of forests. "All countries must cooperate in the common endeavour to maintain and develop forests as a renewable source," Saouma said. He said poverty, food and debt problems and, an unfair global economic system made some countries sacrifice their heritage. Quoting from a preliminary FAO report on tropical forests to be published next year, Saouma said their rate of deforestation rose to 168,000 square kilometres in 1990 from 94,000 square kilometres 10 years earlier.

#### Trial of Trinidad rebels could begin next week

PORT OF SPAIN (R) — Some of the black Muslim rebels charged with treason for their coup attempt against the Trinidad and Tobago government last month could appear before a magistrate as early as next week, knowledgeable government sources said Wednesday. Formal criminal charges including treason, murder, possession of arms, kidnapping and arson, were filed earlier this week against Imam Yasin Abu Bakr, leader of the Jamaat-Al-Muslimeen group. The group mounted an unsuccessful coup attempt July 27 in which it stormed the parliament building and state-run television station, seizing Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and 46 other hostages. Official reports said at least 23 people were killed and hundreds of others, including Robinson, injured during the uprising. The Muslims accused the government of corruption, racism and murder, and called for elections within 90 days. The coup attempt ended five days later when all members of the Jamaat surrendered to authorities.

#### 10 tonnes of contra scrap go for alms

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations turned over 10 tonnes of scrap metal from guns and other military hardware used by the Nicaraguan contra rebels to a relief group which intends to use them to make artificial limbs for young war victims. The 10 tonnes of destroyed weapons, supplied by the United States, had been handed over to the U.N. observed Group in Central America in Honduras (ONUCA), where a few thousand contras were disbanded last April. The bulk of the forces were disbanded later by ONUCA in Nicaragua itself where the contras ended their 10-year battle against the leftist Sandinista government following the election victory last February of U.S.-backed President Violeta Chamorro, who took office in April.



## Gorbachev restores Soviet citizenship to Solzhenitsyn

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev has restored citizenship to Soviet writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who was expelled to the West in 1974, the official TASS news agency said on Thursday. TASS, citing a spokesman for Gorbachev, said the Kremlin leader issued decrees on Wednesday restoring citizenship to 21 people. They included Solzhenitsyn, winner of the 1970 Nobel Prize for literature, historian Lev Kopelev, chess player Viktor Korchnoi, satirical writer Vladimir Voinovich and physicist Yuri Orlov.

## Police cracksmen end second prison siege

MOSCOW (AP) — Police stormed a prison shop in central Russia, gunning down two prisoners who were holding two female sales clerks hostage, Tass newspaper reported Thursday. The men barricaded themselves in the prison shop in Tula, 200 kilometres south of Moscow, on Wednesday night and threatened to kill the women unless they were given a loaded submachine gun, vodka and a bus with a full tank of gasoline, the newspaper said. Tass said the men were about to carry out their threat when the police broke through the door and gunned them down late Wednesday. It said the hostages were not hurt. KGB agents and Interior Ministry troops also stormed a jail in the Black Sea city of Sukhumi on Wednesday, ending a five-day siege by armed inmates holding their guards hostage. TASS said the prisoners' ringleader was seriously injured in the assault as was a KGB agent, an Interior Ministry soldier and two of the hostages.

## Soviet ex-soldier to return hoard of art to German museum

WASHINGTON (R) — More than 300 drawings and watercolours, including some by Rembrandt, Monet and Van Gogh, are being returned to a German museum by a Soviet ex-army officer, the Washington Post reported on Thursday. The works had been presumed lost forever from the Kunsthalle Museum in Bremen, West Germany. The museum's director, Siegfried Salzmann, told the Post that the Soviet officer, Viktor Baldin, rescued the art from German and Soviet troops at the end of World War II and kept the paintings. Baldin, now 72 and director of Moscow's Architecture Museum, was said to have come upon them in the ruins of a castle north of Berlin. The art had been cached there for protection against air raids on Bremen. The hoard constitutes one of the largest and most valuable collections to be returned to any German museum since the allies redistributed thousands of works found hidden in German salt mines after World War II. At its heart are 28 drawings and watercolours by 16th century German artist Albrecht Durer, Salzmann said. Included are 362 drawings and watercolours by Raphael, Goya, Rembrandt, Rubens, Delacroix, Manet and Monet and what was said to be Van Gogh's only known drawing for his painting "starry night."

## Suspended CDU official denies he was paid Stasi informer

EAST BERLIN (R) — A senior official of East Germany's governing Christian Democratic Union (CDU) has denied allegations that he was a paid informer for the former Communist security police, or Stasi. Martin Kirchner was suspended as the CDU's general-secretary on Wednesday pending an investigation into the allegations based on interviews with former Stasi officers in the West German weekly magazine Stern. But Kirchner, a senior figure in the Protestant Church before entering politics, said in Thursday's edition of the CDU newspaper Neue Zeit: "In my position one could not avoid contacts with the state security service. But I never worked with them." He also denied receiving money from the Stasi as Stern alleged. The magazine said Kirchner had been one of the most important Stasi informers before the security force was abolished in last year's democratic revolution. The affair has been damaging to the CDU as it prepares for German unity and all-German parliamentary elections.